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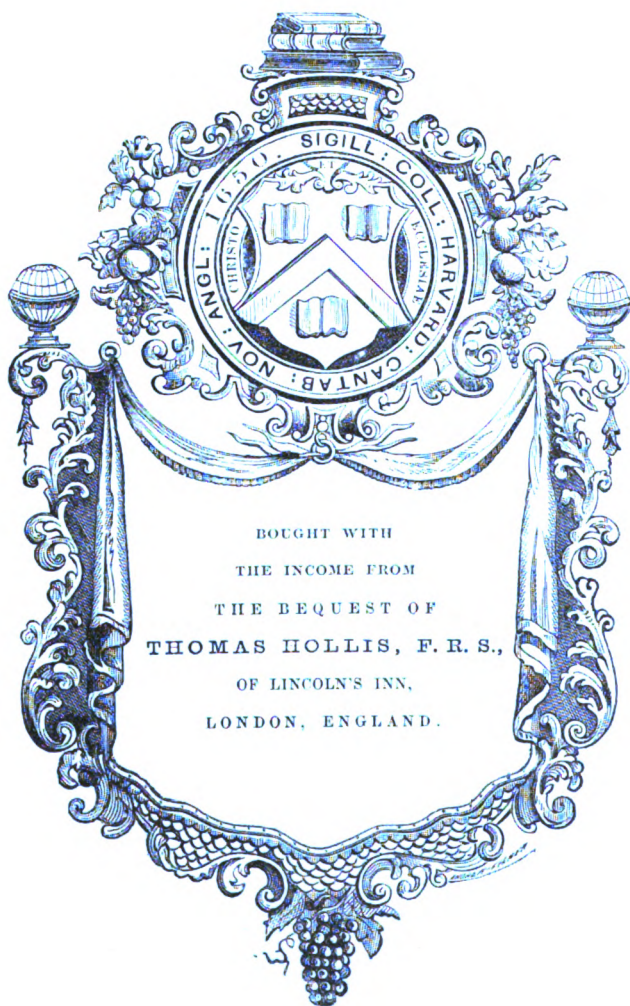
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PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

2 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXI.

**COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE ELEVENTH DAY OF JULY
TO THE TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF JULY, 1902.**

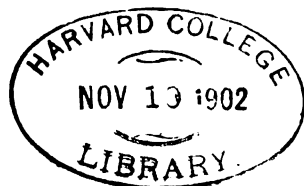
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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

- No. 2847. Uruguay.
- No. 2848. Western Pacific (Friendly Islands).
- No. 2849. Corea.
- No. 2850. China (Foochow).

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND). —Thirty-fourth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, for the year 1901	3
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INDIA (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER).—Shahsud Waziri operations.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table	3
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INDIA (FOREIGN JURISDICTION). —Order in Council, 1902. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table	3
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Midwives Bill.

Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ...	4
House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.	

HOUSE OF COMMONS : FRIDAY, 11TH JULY, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

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Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].		Page
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Huddersfield Corporation Bill : MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS BILL.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	4	
Stonehaven Town Hall Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS].— Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	4	
Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order Bill.— Read the third time and passed	4	
Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].— Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	4	
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barnes, &c.) Bill [LORDS].— As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Monday next	4	
GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION.— Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Glasgow and South Western Railway, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland	5	
Glasgow and South Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill.— To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Glasgow and South Western Railway, presented accordingly ; and, under 62 and 63 Vic., c. 47, s. 7 (2), ordered to be considered upon Monday next	5	
<hr/>		
MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.— That they have agreed to—		
Amendments to, Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords], without Amendment.		
That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bridgend (Glamorganshire) Gas and Water, Goring and Streatley District Gas and Water, Marlow Water, Mid Kent Water, and Pinxton Water.” [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].		
Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].— Read the first time ; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 271]	5	
PETITIONS.		
EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.— Petitions for alteration ; From East Worldham ; Leicester (three) ; Talgarrey ; and Holton St. Nicholas ; to lie upon the Table	5	
VIVISECTION.— Petition from London, for prohibition ; to lie upon the Table ...	5	

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).—Copy presented of thirty-fourth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	6
TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.—Return presented relative thereto [ordered 24th June; <i>Mr. Mount</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No 267]...	6
CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACT (1886) AMENDMENT BILL.—Second Reading upon Tuesday next	6
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Second Reading upon Tuesday next	6
SEA FISHERIES (IRELAND) ACT, 1883.—Return ordered "of the sums expended to date on Sea Fisheries (Ireland) Harbours, Piers, and Boatlips (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 272, of Session 1898).—(<i>Mr. Moore</i>)	6
ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (NO. 7) BILL [LORDS].—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders No. 7 Bill [Lords]."—(<i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>)	6

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

INDIAN RAILWAYS—ALLEGED BLACKMAILING OF THIRD-CLASS NATIVE PASSENGERS.—Question, <i>Mr. Weir</i> (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, India Office	6
INDIAN RAILWAYS—TENDERS FOR LOCOMOTIVES.—Question, <i>Mr. Bonar Law</i> (Glasgow, Blackfriars); Answer, India Office	7
IRELAND—DUTY OF UNDER SECRETARY TO THE LORD LIEUTENANT.—Question, <i>Mr. Swift MacNeill</i> (Donegal, S.); Answer, Irish Office	7
SOUTH AFRICA—ENTERIC FEVER AMONG THE TROOPS—STATISTICS.—Question, <i>Sir Walter Foster</i> (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, War Office	7
VOLUNTEER LONG SERVICE MEDAL.—Question, <i>Mr. Plummer</i> (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, War Office	8

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

LONDON WATER BILL—EQUALISATION OF WATER CHARGES.—Questions, <i>Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree</i> (Bethnal Green, N.E.), and <i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i> (Tower Hamlets, Poplar); Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (<i>Mr. Walter Long</i> , Bristol, S.)	8
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to— Police Reservists Bill. Prison Officers (Pensions) Bill, without Amendment. Amendments to Musical Copyright Bill [Lords.] And have made a consequential Amendment to the Bill	9
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July 11.]

London Water (Re-committed) Bill.

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Capt. Norton (Newington, W.)	10
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Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Captain Norton.*)

<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	11
<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)</i>	12
<i>Mr. Asquith (Fife, E.)</i>	14
<i>Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.)</i>	14
<i>Mr. Mellor (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby)</i>	15
<i>Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham)</i>	16
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	16
<i>Mr. Peel (Manchester, S.)</i>	17
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	18
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby)</i>	19
<i>Mr. John Burns (Battersea)</i>	20
<i>Mr. Harry Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse)</i>	22
<i>Mr. Emmott (Oldham)</i>	22
<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	22
<i>Sir William Tomlinson (Preston)</i>	24

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 86; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 285.) (1.40.)

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	25
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Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—(*Mr Sydney Buxton.*)

<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	28
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	31
<i>Mr. Mellor</i>	32
<i>Sir J. Dickson-Poynder</i>	34
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	34
<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	35
<i>Sir William Houldsworth (Manchester, N.W.)</i>	38
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, N.)</i>	40
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	42
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	43
<i>Mr. Moulton (Cornwall, Launceston)</i>	44
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant</i>	46
<i>Capt. Norton</i>	47

The CHAIRMAN called the attention of the Committee to the conduct of Captain Norton, Member for Newington (West Division), who persisted in irrelevance, and directed him to discontinue his speech.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 101 ; Noes, 163. (Division List No. 286.)

<i>Capt. Norton</i>	51
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	51
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	53

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 1, line 8, to leave out the words ‘acquiring by purchase and of.’ ”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	54
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	55
<i>Mr. Chaplin (Lincolnshire, Steaford)</i>	56
<i>Mr. John Burns</i>	57
<i>Capt. Jessel (St. Pancras, S.)</i>	59
<i>Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs)</i>	60
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	60
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	62
<i>Capt. Norton</i>	63

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 192 ; Noes, 101. (Division List No. 287.)

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

FACTORY ACTS—FRUIT PRESERVING ORDER—PERSONAL EXPLANATION.—On the Motion for adjournment :—

<i>Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)</i>	67
<i>The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)</i>	68

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS : MONDAY, 14TH JULY, 1902.

THE EARL OF MINTO.—Took the Oath 69

REPRESENTATIVE PEER FOR IRELAND.—Writs and Returns electing the Lord Oranmore and Browne a Representative Peer for Ireland in the room of the Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, deceased, with the certificate of the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland annexed thereto :
Delivered (on oath), and certificate read 69

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—

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London United Tramways.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—

Post Office Sites.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table	69
West Gloucestershire Water Bill. —Read 3 ^a , and passed	69
Midland Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	69
Midland Railway Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	69
Norwich Corporation (Electricity, etc.) Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	69
Great Central and Midland Railways (South Yorkshire Railways) Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	69
Stonehaven Town Hall Order Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to	70
Huddersfield Corporation Bill; Manchester Corporation (General Powers) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to ...	70
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [H.L.]. —Read 3 ^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons	70
Aberdeen Accountants Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 ^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons	70
Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order Bill. —Brought from the Commons; read 1 ^a ; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 149.)	70

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL. —No. 356. Falkland Islands; Report for 1901	70
SEWAGE DISPOSAL (ROYAL COMMISSION). —Second Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire and report what methods of treating and disposing of sewage may properly be adopted.	
Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table	70
SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND) (SAVINGS BANKS FUNDS) (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES FUND). —Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1901	70
SUPERANNUATION. —Treasury Minute, dated 8th July, 1902, declaring that Spencer James, Post Office Sorting Clerk, Exeter, was appointed	

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without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his Department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table... 70

RESIGNATION OF LORD SALISBURY.—The New Prime Minister.

<i>The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire)</i>	71
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	73
<i>The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury)</i>	75
<i>The Earl of Rosebery</i>	75
<i>The Duke of Abercorn</i>	77
<i>The Earl of Feversham</i>	77

Licensing Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

<i>Lord Belper</i>	78
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Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Belper.*)

<i>The Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	87
<i>The Earl of Camperdown</i>	91
<i>Lord Windsor</i>	93
<i>Lord Heneage</i>	94
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	95

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Labour Bureaux (London) Bill.—Bill read 3^a.

Amendment moved—

“In Clause 3, page 1, line 14, after ‘employment,’ to insert ‘Borough Councils shall not require that persons employed in the management of these bureaux, or persons seeking employment through the said bureaux, shall be members of a trade union.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	96
<i>The Secretary to the Board of Trade (The Earl of Dudley)</i>	96
<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i>	97

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill passed.

University of Wales (Graduates) Bill.—Read 3^a, (according to order), and passed.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock, till Tomorrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 14TH JULY, 1902.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

North British Railway (General Powers) Bill: Nottingham and Retford Railway Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to	98
Imperial Institute Bill [LORDS]. —Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	98
Bristol Corporation Bill [LORDS]. —As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time... ..	98
Medway and Thames Canal Bill [LORDS]. —As amended, considered; A Clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time... ..	98
London United Electric Railways Bill [LORDS]: Piccadilly, City, and North-East London Railway Bill [LORDS].—Second Reading postponed by the Chairman of Ways and Means under Order [1st May] till Wednesday, at the Evening Sitting	98
Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill [LORDS], etc. —Ordered, That in the case of the Motions for Instructions to the Committees on the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill [Lords], the Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway (New Lines, etc.) Bill [Lords], the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 and No. 3) Bill [Lords], the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [Lords], the Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill [Lords], and the North-West London Railway Bill [Lords], Standing Order 207 be suspended, and that the Instructions, if moved, be allowed to proceed although opposed.—(<i>The Chairman of Ways and Means</i>)	98
London United Electric Railways Bill [LORDS] etc. —Ordered, That in the case of the Motions for Instructions to the Committees on the London United Electric Railways Bill [Lords], and the Piccadilly, City, and North-East London Railway Bill [Lords], Standing Order 207 be suspended, and that the Instructions, if moved, be allowed to proceed although opposed.—(<i>The Chairman of Ways and Means</i>)	98
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barnes, etc.) Bill [LORDS]. —Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	99
Glasgow and South-Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill. —Considered; to be read the third time upon Wednesday	99
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS]. —Read a second time, and committed	99
Whitstable Improvement Bill [LORDS]. —The Chairman of Ways and Means, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 83 relating to Private Bills, informed the House that, in his opinion, the Whitstable Improvement Bill [Lords], though unopposed, ought to be treated as an opposed Private Bill... ..	99
Devonport Corporation (Water) Bill [LORDS]. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	99
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Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. —Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table	99
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Bill, as amended, to be considered tomorrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP M). —Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE reported from the Committee on Group M of Private Bills, That, there being no further business ready for the consideration of the Committee, they had adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd July, at half-past Twelve of the clock	99
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill,
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill,
Chard Gas Bill, without Amendment,
Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill,
Salford Corporation Bill,
Caledonian Railway Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, “An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Bermondsey (Extension), Stoke Newington, and Woolwich.” [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill (Lords).]

Also a Bill, intituled, “An Act to confirm a certain Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Society of Accountants in Aberdeen.” [Aberdeen Accountants Order Confirmation Bill (Lords).]

And also a Bill, intituled, “An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.).” [Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.) Order Confirmation Bill (Lords).]	99
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. —Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 274.]	100
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Local Government (Scotland) Bill. —“To make further provision for Local Government in counties in Scotland; and for other purposes,” presented by Mr. Maxwell, under Standing Order No. 31; supported by Mr. Nicol, Mr. Crombie, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Hozier, and Mr. Renshaw; to be read a second time upon Monday, 4th August, and to be printed. [Bill 272] ...	100
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Local Authorities (Bills in Parliament) Bill. —“To amend the Local Government Act, 1888, by empowering County Councils to promote Bills in Parliament, and to amend the Borough Funds Act, 1872,” presented by Mr. Long, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 273.]	100
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—They have agreed to Midwives Bill.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 6 :—

Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) ... 131

Amendment proposed—

“ In page 2, line 32, after ‘ shall,’ insert ‘ undertake, on such terms as may be from time to time agreed on between the authority and the Board of Education, the administration on behalf of the Board of all or any of the duties of the Board in respect of money provided by Parliament and in respect of certifying the efficiency of schools.’”—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, “ That those words be there inserted.”

The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University) ... 134
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Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)... 139

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“ In page 2, line 32, at beginning, to insert the words ‘ In accordance with the regulations for the time being of the Board of Trade.’”—*Dr. Macnamara.*

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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	150
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 32, after the word ‘shall,’ to insert the words ‘except as hereinafter provided.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)</i>	150
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn

<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis</i>	151
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 23, to leave out from the word ‘have’ to the word ‘the’ in line 35.”—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

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<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	158

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbigshire, W.)</i>	159
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 33, to leave out ‘and duties.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*)

Question proposed.

“That the words ‘and duties’ stand part of the Clause.”

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Mr. Channing ... 160

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 35, after ‘1900,’ to insert the words ‘and if at any time the Board of Education are satisfied that the authority have failed to perform any such duty, the Board may send them a requisition requiring them to fulfil the duty which they have so failed to perform.’”—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

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Sir Joseph Leese (Lancashire, Accrington) ... 163

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Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

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Mr. Samuel Evans ... 170

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Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 35, after the word ‘the,’ to insert the word ‘full.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘full’ be there inserted.”

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Committee report progress ; to sit again this evening.

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Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

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Amendment proposed—

“In line 35, after the word ‘control,’ to insert the words ‘and regulations.’”—(*Mr. Yoxall.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘and regulations’ be there inserted.”

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Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

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<i>Sir Francis Powell</i>	188
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<i>Mr. George White</i>	190
<i>Mr. Abel Thomas (Carmarthenshire, E.)</i>	190
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“In page 2, line 35, to leave out the word ‘secular.’”—(*Mr. Brynmor Jones.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘secular’ stand part of the clause.”

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Mr. Priestley (Grantham) 213

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 35, after the word ‘secular,’ to insert the words ‘and physical.’”—(*Mr. Priestley.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Mr. Whitley 216

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

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Pauper Children (Ireland) Bill [LORDS].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

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Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill. —Moved, That the Order made on the 14th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2 ^a ; agreed to. Bill read 2 ^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next ...	218
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EAST INDIA (FAMINE).—Copy presented, of Papers regarding the Famine and the Relief Operations in India during 1900–1902 [Vol. II. Native States [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 236

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					1.	2.	3.	4.	

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Public Works Loans Bill.—"To grant money for the purpose of certain Local Loans out of Local Loans Funds; and for other purposes relating to Local Loans," presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order 31; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 275.]

Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the provisions for escape from fire in Factories and Workshops," presented by Mr. Tennant, under Standing Order 31; supported by Captain Norton and Mr. Hugh Law; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 276.]

SUPPLY.—[SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.—CLASS IV.—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,421,862 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid."

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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 123 ; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 291.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £78,706, to complete the sum for Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales.

CLASS V.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £277,570, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the expenses in connection with His Majesty's Embassies, Missions, and Consular Establishments Abroad, and other Expenditure chargeable to the Consular Vote."

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It being after half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported tomorrow ; Committee also report progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

SUPPLY [SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS IV.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,712, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) 319

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,612, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

<i>The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)</i>	321
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<i>Mr. A. Graham Murray</i>	327
<i>Mr. Caldwell</i>	328
<i>Mr. Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham)</i>	329

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 72 ; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 292.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. Weir 333

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,512, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

Mr. A. Graham Murray 333

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 127 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 293.)

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Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,512, be granted, for the said service."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 71 ; Noes, 135. (Division List No. 294.)

Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY claimed, "That the original Question be now put."

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,712, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 141 ; Noes, 66. (Division List No. 295.)

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,316,770, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the salaries and expenses of the Inland Revenue Department."

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<i>Mr. Flynn (Cork Co., N.)</i>	347
<i>Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.)</i>	348
<i>Mr. Weir</i>	349

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,314,770, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Flynn.*)

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 56 ; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 296.)

Original Question again proposed.

It being after midnight, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported tomorrow ; Committee also report progress ; to sit again to-morrow.

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill.—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question. [28th May.]

"That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of five Members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'Five,' and insert the word 'Fifteen.'"
—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'Five' stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Ordered, That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of nine Members, five to be nominated by the House, and four by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented three clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, Papers, and records.

Ordered, That five be the quorum.—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain*) ... 353

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) [ADVANCES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £225,000, as may be required for the purposes of any Act of the present Session for the acquisition of certain land in Dublin, and for the erection and equipment of a Royal College of Science, and other buildings for the public service, and to authorise the Treasury, for the purpose of providing for the issue and repayment of such sums, to borrow money by means of terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years, such annuities to be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for the service of the Commissioners, and if those moneys are insufficient, out of the Consolidated Fund."—*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

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Glasgow and South Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill .—Read the third time, and passed	357
Aberdeen Accountants Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS], Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords].—Considered; to be read the third time upon Friday	357
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Police (Superannuation) Bill.—"To amend the Police Act, 1890, with respect to Superannuations," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings, under Standing Order No. 31 ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 277.] ... 373

Police Expenses Bill.—"To amend the law relating to Expenses of Police Authorities," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings, under Standing Order No. 31 ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 278.] ... 374

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.

Clause 6 :—

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 35, after the word 'secular,' to insert the words 'and physical.'"—(Mr. Priestley.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) ... 374

Mr. Priestley (Grantham) ... 375

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Harwood (Bolton) ... 375

Mr. Duncan (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley) ... 376

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 6, page 2, line 36, to leave out 'whether' and insert 'not.'"—(Mr. Duncan.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour ... 376

Amendment agreed to.

Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) ... 376

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 36, to leave out the words 'and School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall be abolished in that area.'"—(Mr. Lloyd-George.)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall' stand part of the Clause."

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The Committee divided :—Ayes, 265 ; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 297.)

<i>Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.)</i>	397
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Amendment proposed—

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Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

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<i>Mr. Runciman</i>	400

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 105 ; Noes, 262. (Division List No. 298.)

Motion made and Question proposed, “That Clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 287 ; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 299.)

Clause 7 :—

Mr. Ellis Griffith 427

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Ellis Griffith.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour 428

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Local Government (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill.—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [7th April], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid) 429

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed this evening.

— — — — — EVENING SITTING.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time.

Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 430

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words, 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield) 432

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 174 ; Noes, 10. (Division List No. 300.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time, and committed.

Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway (New Lines, Etc.) Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

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Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words ‘upon this day three months.’”—(*Mr. Claude Hay*.)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

Mr. Mellor (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) 439

Mr. Milvain (Hampstead) 439

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 and No. 3) Bill
[LORDS] [BY ORDER].

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Claude Hay 440

Bill read a second time and committed.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill.—Bill read a second time and committed.

Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Claude Hay 441

Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wilts, Chippenham) 441

Mr. Courtenay Warner 442

Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.) 442

Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 443

Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth) 443

Bill read a second time.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill [Lords] to insert, so far as practicable, in the Bill provisions to carry out the recommendations as to workmen's trains and fares contained in the Report of the Joint Committee of Session 1901 on Underground Railways.—(*Sir John Dickson-Poynder*.)

London United Electric Railways Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Mr. Banbury 444

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words ‘upon this day three months.’”—(*Mr. Banbury*.)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

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<i>Mr. David Morgan (Essex, Walthamstow)</i>	453

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 250 ; Noes, 69. (Division List No. 301.)

Main Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

<i>Mr. Peel</i>	455
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Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Committee on the London United Electric Railways Bill [Lords] to take security from the undertakers for the completion of the whole scheme of railways comprised in the Bill, either by making the rights of the undertakers under the Bills conditional upon the due performance of their whole undertaking or otherwise, as the Committee may think fit.—(*Mr. Peel.*)

North-West London Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER). Order for Second Reading read.

<i>Mr. Claude Hay</i>	457
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Bill read a second time, and committed.

Piccadilly, City, and North-East London Railway Bill.—Bill read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Piccadilly, City, and North-East London Railway Bill [Lords] to take security from the undertakers for the completion of the whole scheme of railways comprised in the Bill, either by making the rights of the undertakers under the Bills conditional upon the due performance of their whole undertaking or otherwise, as the Committee may think fit.—(*Mr. Peel.*)

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

<i>Mr. John Redmond</i>	458
<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i>	458
<i>Mr. Flynn</i>	459

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the debate be now adjourned.”—(*Mr. Flynn.*)

<i>Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.)</i>	459
<i>Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.)</i>	460

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<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	460
<i>Mr. John Redmond</i>	461
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	462

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tuesday next.

Local Government (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill.—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [7th April], “That the Bill be now read a second time.”

Question again proposed.

<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.)</i>	463
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It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed tomorrow.

Rating of Machinery Bill.—Order read for resuming adjourned debate on Motion for committal to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc. [9th April.]

Objection being taken.

<i>Mr. Galloway (Manchester, S.W.)</i>	463
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Committee could consider both Bills at the same time. The Motion was merely to facilitate the proceedings of the Committee.

Debate further adjourned till Monday next.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND) [CONTRIBUTIONS].—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of money to be provided by Parliament, of contributions towards the custody, industrial training, elementary education, and meals of children sent by an order of a Court (other than an attendance order) to a certified Day Industrial School, of sums not exceeding one shilling per head per week, and in the case of children without an order of the Court of a sum not exceeding sixpence a week, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to provide for the further establishment of Day Industrial Schools in Ireland.—(*Mr. Wyndham.*)

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<i>Sir William Walrond (Devonshire, Tiverton)</i>	464
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Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, THURSDAY, 17TH JULY, 1902.

The Lord ORANMORE and BROWNE took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3).
Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order.

The same were ordered to lie upon the Table 465

Richmond Hill (Preservation of View) Bill.—Judge's Report received, and ordered to lie upon the Table 465

London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill ; Whitechapel and Bow Railway Bill ; Finchley Urban District Council Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 465

London United Tramways Bill.—Moved, That the Order made on the 14th March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to ; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 465

Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway (Vesting) Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 465

Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the borrowing provisions of the Electric Lighting Act, 1882, and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, was presented by the Lord Balfour ; read 1^a; to be printed ; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday next. (No. 152.) 465

Glasgow and South-Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a; to be printed and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2^a—(*The Lord Balfour*)—and reported from the Committee. (No. 154.) 466

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived ; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next 466

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Amendments made. Standing Committee negatived. Report of Amendments to be received tomorrow 466

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill.—Committee of the Whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Monday next 466

London County Council (Subways and Tramways) Bill ; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—The order made on the 3rd instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bills discharged 466

London County Council (Subways and Tramways) Bill ; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill ; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill ; London United Tramways Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills (viz.)—

E. Denbigh,
L. Muskerry,
L. Ludlow ;

agreed to ; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Monday next at twelve o'clock ; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills ... 466

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2854.	Turkey (Smyrna).
No. 2855.	France (Marseilles).
No. 2856.	Spain (Barcelona)

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Despatch by General Lord Kitchener, dated 1st June, 1902, relative to military operations in South Africa	467
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EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION OF GUNPOWDER ON REGISTERED PREMISES AT MARPLE, NEAR STOCKPORT).—Report to the right hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion of gunpowder which took place on the registered premises of Messrs. James Lee and Sons, New Road, Marple, on the 26th April, 1902. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).—Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies
for the year 1901 467

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Additional Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, dated 4th July, 1902 467

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.—Accounts presented of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1901, and of the sums received and paid by the National Debt Commissioners on account of the Fund for the Post Office Savings Bank in the same year. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 467

Public Libraries (Ireland) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 153.) 468

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) (Ireland) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to order); further Amendments made; Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow, and to be printed as amended. (No. 155.) ... 468

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Pauper Children (Ireland) Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons, agreed to ... 468

Musical Copyright Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons, with the consequential Amendment made by the Lords to the Amendments made by the Commons, agreed to ... 468

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES—LORD ROBERTS' REPLY.

The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) ... 468

The letter was ordered to be entered on the Journals.

Post Office Sites Bill.—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Postmaster General (The Marquess of Londonderry) ... 469

Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed.

Shop Clubs Bill.—Amendments reported (according to order).

The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) ... 469

Amendment moved—

“In Clause 7, page 2, line 32, after ‘branch,’ to insert ‘and in application to Scotland the word ‘registrar’ means the registrar as defined in that Act.’”—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*.)

On question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow, and to be printed as amended (No 156).

MILITARY EDUCATION.

Lord Monkswell ... 470

Moved, “To resolve that, in the opinion of this House, immediate steps should be taken with a view to remedy the deplorable state of things disclosed in the Report of the Committee on Military Education, and in particular that an Inspector General of Military Education, with an adequate staff, should be at once appointed in accordance with the recommendation of the Report.”—(*Lord Monkswell*.)

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The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) ... 498

Lord Monkswell ... 504

On Question, resolved in the affirmative.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Seven o'clock, till tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 17TH JULY, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS]; (Standing Orders Applicable Thereto Complied With).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [LORDS]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time tomorrow ... 505

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time tomorrow ... 506

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time tomorrow ... 506

Water Orders Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time tomorrow... 506

Leicester Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 506

Hastings Tramways Bill [LORDS]; Taff Vale Railway Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 506

Wrexham District Tramways Bill [LORDS]; Rossendale Valley Tramways Bill.—Reported with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 506

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to: Rothesay Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment; East Worcestershire Water Bill, North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill, Cleethorpes Improvement Bill, with Amendments ... 506

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ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment (Provisional Orders confirmed); Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time tomorrow ... 507

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LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1901-2. —Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 17th June; <i>Mr. Grant Lawson</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 274.]	508
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GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; <i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 276.]	508
GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; <i>Mr. Gerald Balfour</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 277.]	509
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CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1902–3).—Estimate presented of the further sums required to be voted for the service of the year ending 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 279.] ...	509
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Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—	
1. Caledonian Canal, Copy of Ninety-seventh Report of the Commissioners [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 280.]	
2. Royal University of Ireland, Copy of Account of Receipts and Expenditure of the Royal University of Ireland for the year ended 31st March 1902, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 281.] ...	509
FISHING PIERS (IRELAND).—Return ordered, “giving the amount of public money spent on the repair or construction of Fishery Piers in Ireland, specifying the amount spent in each county, since the year 1850, stating the Act or Acts of Parliament under which the several expenditures have been made, also whether the funds so spent have been derived from Irish or from Imperial sources, and whether by way of grant or by way of loan; and, in the latter case, on what terms as to interest and repayment.”—(<i>Sir Thomas Esmonde</i> .)	510

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ORKNEY FORESHORE FISHING.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	519
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WICKLOW MAGISTRACY.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.)	522
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COOLNAMONA BOGS.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	524
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MR. BALFOUR'S OFFICIAL TITLE.—Question, Mr. Alfred Davies (Carmarthen Boroughs); [No Answer was returned]	526

NEW BILL.

Education Act, 1901 (Renewal) Bill. —“To renew the Education Act, 1901,” presented by Dr. Macnamara, under Standing Order 31; supported by Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. Channing, Mr. Ernest Gray, Mr. Ernest Flower, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Corrie Grant, and Captain Norton; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 280.]	526
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SAVINGS BANKS FUNDS.—Report from the Select Committee with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read. Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 282.]	526
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SUPPLY [EIGHTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £332,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for the salaries and miscellaneous charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903."

<i>Sir Edward Grey (Northumberland, Berwick)</i>	527
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Motion made and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries of the Staff) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State."—*(Sir Edward Grey.)*

<i>Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton)</i>	...	...	...	...	534
<i>The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)</i>	...	...	...	...	546
<i>Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham)</i>	...	...	...	...	565
<i>Mr. Lambert (Devonshire, South Molton)</i>	...	...	...	...	568
<i>Sir Edgar Vincent (Exeter)</i>	...	...	...	...	573
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	...	...	...	...	575
<i>Mr. Claude Lowther (Cumberland, Eskdale)</i>	...	...	...	...	579
<i>Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	581
<i>Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich)</i>	...	...	...	...	582
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)</i>	...	...	...	...	585
<i>Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	589
<i>Colonel Kenyon-Stanley (Shropshire, Newport)</i>	...	...	...	...	591
<i>Sir Edward Grey</i>	...	...	...	...	592
<i>Mr. Duke (Plymouth)</i>	...	...	...	...	592
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	...	...	...	...	594
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	...	...	...	...	595
<i>Mr. Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore)</i>	...	...	...	...	595

Question put.

The Committee divided. Ayes, 98; Noes, 236. (Division List No. 302.)

Original Question again proposed.

<i>Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	599
<i>Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	601

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [LORDS]. (BY ORDER.)

<i>Mr. Brynmor Jones (Swansea District)</i>	602
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SUPPLY [18TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

1. £1,381,000, Militia : Pay, Bounty, etc.
2. £585,000, Imperial Yeomanry : Pay and Allowances.

<i>Mr. H. C. Richards (Finsbury, E.)</i>	603
<i>Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe)</i>	603
<i>Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid)</i>	604
<i>The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton)</i>	604
<i>Sir Robert Hermon-Hodge (Orfordshire, Henley)</i>	606

Vote agreed to.

3. £1,287,000, Volunteer Corps, Pay and Allowances.

<i>Colonel Brookfield (Sussex, Rye)</i>	607
<i>Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central)</i>	608
<i>Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick)</i>	609
<i>Sir James Rankin (Herefordshire, Leominster)</i>	610
<i>Mr. Tomkinson</i>	610
<i>Lord Stanley</i>	610
<i>Mr. Wylie (Dumbartonshire)</i>	611
<i>Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.)</i>	612
<i>Major Seely (Isle of Wight)</i>	613
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	613
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	614

Vote agreed to.

4. Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,025,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, etc., of the Medical Establishment, and for Medicines, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903."

<i>Mr. MacVeagh (Down Co., S.)</i>	614
<i>Colonel Welby (Taunton)</i>	615
<i>Mr. H. C. Richards</i>	615
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	616
<i>Major Jameson (Clare, W.)</i>	616
<i>Colonel Welby</i>	618
<i>Mr. Markham (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe)</i>	618
<i>Sir J. Batty Tuke (Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities)</i>	618
<i>Dr. Farquharson (Aberdeenshire, W.)</i>	622
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	624
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner</i>	627
<i>Mr. H. C. Richards</i>	628
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	629

- Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,024,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Colonel Welby.*)

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<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	629
<i>Colonel Welby</i>	630
<i>Major Jameson (Clare, W.)</i>	630
<i>Mr. Brodrick</i>	631

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £120,800, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903."

Sir Arthur Hayter (Walsall) ∴ 631

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be Reported upon Monday next; Committee also report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND) [CONTRIBUTIONS].

Resolution reported—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of money to be provided by Parliament, of Contributions towards the custody, industrial training, elementary education, and meals of children sent by an order of a Court (other than an attendance order) to a certified Day Industrial School, of sums not exceeding one shilling per head per week, and in the case of children without an order of the Court, of a sum not exceeding sixpence a week, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to provide for the further establishment of Day Industrial Schools in Ireland."

Resolution agreed to 635

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Committee read.

Mr. Harrington (Dublin Harbour) 636
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) 636

Order for Committee read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 18TH JULY, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—

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New Forest (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes).	
The same was ordered to lie on the Table.	637
Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock (South Yorkshire Extension Lines) Bill. —Reported, with Amendments ...	637
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. —The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The orders made on the 1st instant and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House	637
Bristol Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Medway and Thames Canal Bill [H.L.]. —Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments	637
Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order Bill. —Moved, that the Order made on the 14th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2 ^a (<i>The Earl Howe</i>); agreed to; Bill read 2 ^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House	637
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. —Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3 ^a on Monday next ...	637
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. —House in Committee (according to order): the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made: Standing Committee negatived: Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next	638
Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill. —House in Committee (according to order): Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3 ^a on Tuesday next	638
Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. —Read 2 ^a (according to order), and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland Act, 1899) deemed to have been reported from the Committee: Bills to be read 3 ^a on Monday next	638
London County Council (Subways and Tramways) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; London United Tramways Bill. —Report from the Committee of Selection, that the Lord Wandsworth be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Brassey; and that the Earl of Yarborough be Chairman of the said Committee; read and agreed to	638

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).—Sixteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors, for 1901	638
JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) 1901.—Part II. Civil Statistics	638

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IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 638

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.—Statute made by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, on 20th March, 1902, amending Statute III., 12 (Fellowships held by Professors) of the Statutes of the College: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 639

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES) (IRELAND) BILL.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons ... 639

SHOP CLUBS BILL.—Read 3^a. with the Amendments, a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons ... 639

NEW FOREST (SALE OF LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES) BILL.—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Belper ... 639

Bill read 2^a, and committed for Monday next.

TRANSVAAL CONCESSIONS COMMISSION—POSITION OF THE NETHERLANDS RAILWAY.

The Earl of Camperdown ... 640

Lord Stanley of Alderley ... 642

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Onslow) ... 643

CHINA — GENERAL POSITION — RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA — ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE—ANGLO-ITALIAN RELATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

Earl Spencer ... 644

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) ... 650

House adjourned at ten Minutes past Six o'clock to Monday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

— — —

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 18TH JULY, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead (Nos. 1-3) Bill [LORDS.]

Mr. Bull (Hammersmith) ... 663

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to inquire and report whether the railway proposed to be authorised by the Bill, if constructed on the lines mentioned, will not so seriously injure Hampstead Heath, under which it is to pass, by tapping the wells, draining the soil, destroying the verdure, and interfering with this public place of resort, as to make it inexpedient to pass the Bill; and that the Committee have power to call witnesses and receive evidence on the subject."—(*Mr. Bull.*)

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<i>Sir Thomas Wrightson (St. Pancras, E.)</i>	664
<i>Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping)</i>	664

Motion accordingly amended, and again proposed.

<i>Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Haggerston)</i>	665
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Question put and agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to inquire and report whether the railway proposed to be authorised by the Bill, if constructed on the lines mentioned, will not seriously injure Hampstead Heath, under which it is to pass, by tapping the wells, draining the soil, destroying the verdure, and interfering with this public place of resort; and that the Committee have power to call witnesses and receive evidence on the subject.—(*Mr. Bull.*)

Great Central and Midland Railways (South Yorkshire Railways) Bill; Midland Railway Bill; Midland Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill; Norwich Corporation (Electricity, etc.) Bill.—Lords Amendment considered and agreed to	666
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Barry Railway Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	666
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Aberdeen Accountants Order Confirmation Bill [Lords]; Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords].—Read the third time and passed, without Amendment	666
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill [Lords]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill [Lords]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment	666
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Educational Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill (No. 2) [Lords].—Read the second time, and committed	666
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Wigan Corporation Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	666
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Private Bills (Group N.).—Mr. Heywood Johnstone reported from the Committee on Group N. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Tuesday next, the 22nd July.

Report to lie upon the Table	666
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Fleetwood Urban District Council Bill. —Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	667
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS. —That they have agreed to: Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway (Vesting) Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill, with Amendments	667
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IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1901, to 31st March, 1902 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.	667
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NAVAL GUNNERY PRIZES.—Question, Mr. Yerburch (Chester) ; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	668
SOUTH-EASTERN AND CHATHAM RAILWAY—ROUTE TO CONTINENT—EXCESS LUGGAGE.—Question, Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.) ; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	669
IRISH BUTTER—TREATMENT IN TRANSIT.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.) ; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	670
SOUTH AFRICA—CLAIMS OF RESERVE OFFICERS.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) ; Answer, Mr. Brodrick	670

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SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including agriculture and fishing), Shipping and Manufactures: Sir John Leng and Sir Walter Thorburn (added in respect of the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill); and had appointed in substitution Mr. Edmund Robertson and Mr. James Reid.

Report to lie upon the Table ... 670

LONDON WATER (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 :—

Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) ... 671

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words ‘and carrying on.’”—
(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That the words ‘and carrying on’ stand part of the Clause.”

The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 675

Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) ... 676

Mr. Cohen (Islington, E.) ... 677

Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) ... 677

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 99 ; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 303.)

Captain Norton (Newington, W.) ... 679

Mr. Lough ... 681

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 9, after the word ‘on,’ to insert the words ‘until the purchase is completed.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Mr. Walter Long ... 682

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lough ... 683

Mr. Walter Long ... 684

Mr. Sydney Buxton ... 684

Mr. Harry Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) ... 685

Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs) ... 685

Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby) ... 685

Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) ... 686

Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) ... 687

Sir Robert Reid ... 687

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<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	689
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	689
Amendment proposed—	
“In page 1, line 19, to leave out sub-section (3).”—(<i>Dr. Macnamara.</i>)	
Question proposed, “That the words ‘Subject to the provisions of this Act the Water Board shall consist of’ stand part of the Clause.”	
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	690
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	690
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	690
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	691
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	691
Question put.	
The Committee divided :—Ayes, 138 ; Noes, 101. (Division List No. 304.)	
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	693
Amendment proposed—	
“In page 1, line 20, after ‘of,’ to insert ‘thirty-five members including.’”—(<i>Mr. Buxton.</i>)	
Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”	
<i>Mr. Edgar Vincent (Exeter)</i>	700
<i>Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.)</i>	702
<i>Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)</i>	709
<i>Sir Robert Reid</i>	710
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	710
<i>Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham)</i>	711
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	711
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	711
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	712
<i>Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea)</i>	712
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	713
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	713
<i>Sir Robert Reid</i>	713
Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.	
<i>Mr. Cremer (Shoreditch, Hoxton)</i>	713
Amendment proposed—	
“In page 1, line 20, to leave out the words ‘a chairman, and a vice-chairman and.’”—(<i>Mr. Cremer.</i>)	
Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”	
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	714
<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	715
<i>Mr. Cremer</i>	715

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<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	715
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	716
<i>Mr. Wallace (Perth)</i>	716
<i>Captain Jessel</i>	716

Question put.

The Committee divided :--Ayes, 191 ; Noes, 25. (Division List No. 305.)

Amendment moved—

“ Clause 1, page 1, line 20, to omit ‘ seventy-one.’ ”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Agreed to.

<i>Mr. Whitmore</i>	719
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Amendment proposed—

“ In page 1, line 21, to leave out the words ‘ be appointed,’ and insert the words ‘ until the time fixed by this Act for the first new appointment of a chairman and vice-chairman be appointed by the Local Government Board and afterwards.’ ”—(*Mr. Whitmore.*)

Question proposed, “ That the words ‘ be appointed ’ stand part of the Clause.”

<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	719
<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	720
<i>Mr. Lough</i>	721
<i>Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping)</i>	722

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 120 ; Noes, 155. (Division List No. 306.)

It being after half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 21ST JULY, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London United Tramway Bill.—Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee 725

New Forest (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow 725

West Ham Corporation Bill ; Newport Corporation Bill ; North-Eastern Railway Bill ; London and North-Western Railway Bill.—Read 3*, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons 725

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North Metropolitan Tramways Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments ; a further Amendment made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons ...	725
CROYDON AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS BILL. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	725
Metropolitan Railway Bill ; London County Council (General Powers) Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	725
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. —Read 3 ^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	725
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill. —Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3 ^a tomorrow	725

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LICENSING BILL. —Petition for Amendment of : Of Justices of the Peace for the city and county of Worcester ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table ...	726
LICENSING BILL. —Petitions in favour of : Of Swinton Primitive Methodists ; Eccles Free Church Council ; British Temperance League.—Read, and ordered to lie on the Table	726

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Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table	726
ALKALI, ETC., WORKS REGULATION ACTS, 1881 AND 1892. —Thirty-eighth annual report on alkali, etc., works, by the Chief Inspector ; proceedings during the year 1901 ; presented to the Local Government Board and to the Secretary for Scotland	726
HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (IRELAND) (PROBATE DIVISION). —Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1901.	
Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table	726
POST OFFICE SITE (OBAN) DRAFT PROVISIONAL ORDER. —Ordered, That the evidence taken before the Committee of this House on the Callander and	

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Oban Railway Bill, 1897, be referred to the Commissioners appointed under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, to inquire into the Post Office Site (Oban) Draft Provisional Order 727

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.—Statute made by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, on the 20th March, 1902, amending Statute III., twelve (Fellowships held by Professors) of the Statutes of the College (laid before the House on Friday last); to be printed. (No. 157.) 727

Licensing Bill.—House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1 :—

Lord Bishop of Winchester 727

Amendment moved—

“In page 1, line 8, after ‘place,’ to insert ‘or a place of public entertainment or resort.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 727

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Wemyss 728

Amendment moved—

“In page 1, line 9, after ‘himself,’ to insert ‘or is a nuisance to the public.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Belper 728

The Earl of Wemyss 728

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2 :—

Lord Bishop of Winchester 728

Amendment moved—

“In Clause 2, line 12, after ‘place,’ to insert ‘or place of public entertainment or resort.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 729

Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 729

Lord Tweedmouth 729

Lord Bishop of Winchester 729

Lord Belper 730

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Earl of Wemyss 730

Lord Belper 730

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

The Earl of Wemyss

Amendment moved—

“ In page 2, line 8, to leave out from ‘ him ’ to the end of the Clause and to insert ‘ did not knowingly suffer the said drunkenness to take place on his premises. ’ ”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

<i>Lord Belper</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	730
<i>The Earl of Wemyss</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	731
<i>Viscount Cross</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	732

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4 agreed to.

<i>Lord Windsor</i>	732
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Amendment moved, to insert as a new Clause—

“ Regulations shall be made by the police authority for the purpose of securing that, where possible, a constable who sees a drunken person (or anyone who is a convicted person within the meaning of this Act) entering, or about to enter, licensed premises (or a club registered under Part III. of this Act), shall at once warn the person in charge of the premises against serving such person. ”—(*Lord Windsor.*)

<i>Lord Heneage</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	733
<i>Lord Belper</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	734
<i>Lord Windsor</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	734

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 5 :—

<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	734
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Amendment moved—

“ In page 2, line 40, after ‘ wife, ’ to insert ‘ Provided that, instead of making an order in pursuance of paragraph (a) of this sub-section, the Court may, with the consent of the wife, order her to be committed to, and detained in, any retreat licensed under the Inebriates’ Acts, 1879 to 1900, the licensee of which is willing to receive her ; and such order shall have effect as if she had been admitted to the retreat under Section 10 of the Habitual Drunkards Act, 1879, as amended by any subsequent enactments. ’ ”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

<i>Lord Belper</i>	735
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Amendment agreed to.

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Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6 :—

Lord Belper 736

Amendment moved—

“In page 3, line 31, after ‘person’ to insert ‘to a fine not exceeding.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8 :—

Lord Belper 736

Amendment moved—

“In page 4, line 15, to leave out ‘convictions’ and to insert ‘licences.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Earl of Wemyss 736

Amendment moved—

“In page 4, line 16, after ‘held,’ to insert ‘except where the convictions are for offences of a technical or trivial nature, or where the last recorded conviction is more than three years old.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Belper 736

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Belper

Amendment moved—

“In page 4, line 20, to add as a new sub-section : After the commencement of this Act no conviction shall be recorded on a licence.”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9 :—

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

Earl of Wemyss 737

Amendment moved—

“In page 4, line 29, after ‘waters,’ to insert ‘and cigars.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

<i>Lord Belper</i>	737
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Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

<i>Earl of Camperdown</i>	738
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Amendment moved—

“In Clause 9, page 4, lines 35 and 36, to leave out ‘except as hereinafter provided.’”—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

<i>Lord Belper</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	739
<i>Lord Heneage</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	740
<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	741
<i>Lord James of Hereford</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	741
<i>Earl of Northbrook</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	741
<i>Lord Windsor</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	742
<i>Duke of Devonshire</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	742
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	742

On Question whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause, the House divided :—Contents, 53 ; Not-Contents, 38.

Amendment negatived.

<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	743
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Amendment moved—

“In page 5, line 19, after the second ‘the,’ to insert licensing.”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10 :—

<i>Earl of Wemyss</i>	743
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Amendment moved—

“In page 5, line 29, to leave out from ‘conceals’ to ‘for’ in line 30, and to insert ‘the person obtaining intoxicating liquor from the observation of the person supplying the same.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

<i>Lord Belper</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	743
<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	744

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

<i>Earl of Wemyss</i>	744
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Amendment moved—

“In page 6, line 12, to leave out from ‘as’ to ‘shall’ in line 14, and to insert ‘may be necessary for the due observance of the law.’”—
(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Belper 744

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Bishop of Winchester 745

Amendment moved—

“In page 6, line 15, after ‘consumed’ to insert ‘or which is used as a means of communication between such part and any street or other public way.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 745

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Belper 745

Amendment moved—

“In page 6, line 16, after ‘sessions’ to insert ‘as provided by the Alehouse Act, 1828.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Earl of Wemyss 745

Amendment moved—

“In page 6, line 17, after ‘with’ to insert ‘or reversed on appeal.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Belper 746

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Belper 746

Amendment moved—

“To omit the words ‘any such order is not complied with.’”—
(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment moved—

“To insert after ‘person,’ the words ‘makes default in complying with any such order.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendments agreed to.

Lord Belper 746

Amendment moved—

“After line 22, to insert as a new sub-section : ‘(5) Notice of any order under this section shall be forthwith given by the clerk to the owner of the premises in respect of which the order is made.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 :—

<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	747
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Amendment moved—

“In page 6, line 32, after ‘Clerk,’ to insert ‘or any adjoining district.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

<i>Earl Bathurst</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	747
<i>Viscount Cross</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	748
<i>Lord Heneage</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	748
<i>Lord Belper</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	748
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	748

On Question, that the proposed words stand part of the Clause, the House divided : Contents, 23 ; Not-Contents, 62.

Amendment negatived.

Lord Bishop of Winchester.

Amendment moved—

“In line 33, after ‘preparation,’ to insert with the consent of the licensing justices.”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

<i>Lord Belper</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750
<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	750

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13 amended and agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15 :—

<i>Lord Bishop of Winchester</i>	754
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Amendment moved—

“In page 8, line 26, to leave out from the second ‘the’ to ‘and’ in line 27, and to insert ‘tenancy, agreement, or other assurance under which the licensed premises are to be vested in the applicant.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

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Lord Belper 751

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Lord Davey 751

Amendment moved—

“In line 26, after the word ‘agreement,’ to insert ‘or other assurance.’”—(*Lord Davey*.)

Amendment agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Winchester 751

Amendment moved—

“In line 33, after ‘both,’ to insert ‘the tenancy, agreement, or other assurance to be produced under this sub-section shall be deemed to contain the terms of the proposed transferee’s interest in the licensed premises, and any additional, subsequent, or collateral agreement or defeasance shall be void and of no effect.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester*.)

Lord Coleridge 752

Lord Belper 752

Lord Bishop of Winchester 752

The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) 752

Amendment negatived.

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16 :—

Lord Heneage 752

Amendment moved—

“In lines 23 and 24, to leave out ‘seven days of the time’ and to insert ‘a reasonable time previous to the day.’”—(*Lord Heneage*.)

Earl of Wemyss 753

Lord Belper 753

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

“In line 23, to leave out ‘seven’ and to insert three.”—(*Lord Belper*.)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Winchester 753

Amendment moved—

“After Clause 7, to insert as a new clause:—17A. In respect of an application for the transfer or removal of a licence under Section 4 or Section 14 of the Alehouse Act, 1828; to other premises not theretofore licensed for the sale of the same kind of intoxicating liquor, the applicant shall give the like notices and deposit the like plans as are requisite in the case of an application for a new licence.

Provided always that in any case where licensed premises have been by fire, tempest, or other unforeseen and unavoidable calamity rendered unfit for the reception of travellers and for the other legal purposes of an inn, the licensing justices may, in their discretion, for good cause shown, dispense with the observance of these regulations in any particular case if, in their opinion, such notices have been given as are reasonable under the circumstances of the particular case.”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 754

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 18:—

...*Lord-Bishop-of Winchester* 754

Amendment moved—

“In page 10, line 3, to leave out from ‘(1)’ to ‘confirmed,’ and to insert ‘an application for the confirmation of the grant of a licence shall not be heard.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Earl of Wemyss 755

Amendment moved—

“To insert as a new Clause: ‘The licensing justices at the annual or adjourned licensing meeting may, in their discretion, grant costs against any objector to the renewal or transfer of a licence if the said justices consider the objection to be of a frivolous or vexatious character.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Belper 755

Amendment negatived.

Amendment moved—

“To insert as a new Clause: ‘The provisions of Section 22 of the Licensing Act, 1874, as to the provisional grant and confirmation of licences in respect of new premises for the sale of intoxicating liquors to be consumed on the premises, shall apply also to licences to sell intoxicating liquors for consumption off the premises.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

...*Lord Belper* 756

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Amendment negatived.

Clause 19 :—

Lord Belper 756

Amendment moved—

“In page 10, line 16, to leave out ‘are not’ and to insert ‘cannot be.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)
... ..

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“In line 19, after ‘accounts,’ to insert ‘The order of the Appellate Court may be made either at the sessions when the appeal is heard, or at the next ensuing sessions, and the costs may be taxed either in or out of sessions.’”—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20 :—

Lord Bishop of Winchester 757

Amendment moved—

“In page 10, line 21, to leave out ‘ten’ and to insert ‘seven.’”—
(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Winchester 757

Amendment moved—

“In line 26, after ‘provided’ to insert ‘or are available on reasonable terms.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 757

Amendment by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 agreed to.

Earl of Hardwicke 757

Amendment moved—

“To insert as a new Clause :—Notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary, it shall not be necessary for a person holding a canteen under the authority of a Secretary of State or of the Admiralty to obtain a justice’s licence or certificate to enable him to obtain or hold any excise licence for the sale of any intoxicating liquor, and an excise licence may be granted to any such person accordingly.”—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 amended and agreed to.

Clauses 24 and 25 agreed to.

Clause 26 :—

Lord Bishop of Winchester 758

Amendment moved—

“In page 12, line 20, after ‘may’ to insert ‘if it thinks fit’—
(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Lord Bishop of Winchester 758

Amendment moved—

“To leave out lines 29 to 31, and to insert ‘that persons who are
not members are habitually admitted to the club for the purpose of
obtaining intoxicating liquor ; or.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Lord Belper 758

Lord Bishop of Winchester... .. 759

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Wemyss 759

Amendment moved—

“In page 12, line 39, after Sub-Section (h) to insert as a new Sub-
Section, (i) that abuses have arisen from the supply of intoxicating
liquors to members on the premises for consumption off the premises.”
—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

Lord Belper 759

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining Clauses and Schedule agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as
amended. [No. 158.]

House adjourned at a quarter before Eight o'clock till Tomorrow,
half-past Ten o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY 21ST JULY, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Provisional Order Bills [LORDS]: (Standing Orders Applicable Thereto Complied With).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill [Lords],
Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [Lords],
Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords],

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time tomorrow ... 759

Cleethorpes Improvement Bill; East Worcestershire Water Bill; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 760

Central London Railway Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 760

South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [LORDS].—Verbal Amendments made (King's consent signified); Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ... 760

Consett Water Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; a Clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time ... 760

Felixstowe and Walton Improvement Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time ... 760

Hastings Tramways Bill [LORDS] [NOT AMENDED].—Considered; to be read the third time ... 760

Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time ... 760

Taff Vale Railway Bill [LORDS] [NOT AMENDED].—Considered; to be read the third time ... 760

Weardale and Shildon District Water Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time ... 760

Aberdeen Suburban Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS];
Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Railway Order Confirmation Bill.—Considered; to be read the third time upon Wednesday ... 761

PETITIONS.

BURIAL FEES IN THE LAMBETH PARISH CEMETERY AT TOOTING.—Petition from Lambeth, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table ... 761

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against: From Kettering; Darwen; and Truro; to lie upon the Table ... 761

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LONDON WATER BILL.—Petition from Woolwich, for alteration; to lie upon the Table ... 761

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.—Paper [presented 18th July] to be printed. [No. 283] ... 761

APPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL CHARTERS.—Return [presented 18th July] to be printed. [No. 284] ... 761

SALMON FISHERIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners on Salmon Fisheries (Part I., Report and Maps) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 761

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March 1902, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 761

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th April, *Mr. Joseph A. Pease*]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 285.] ... 762

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).—Annual Accounts, presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table ... 762

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES (ACCOUNTS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th June, *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the table and to be printed. [No. 286.] ... 762

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS REGULATION ACTS, 1881 AND 1892.—Copy presented, of Thirty-eighth Annual Report on Alkali, etc., Works, by the Chief Inspector, being for 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 287.] ... 762

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.—Copy presented, of Census of Ireland, Part II., General Report, with Illustrative Maps and Diagrams, Tables, and Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 762

NAVAL WORKS.—Copy presented, of Statement showing the total estimated cost of each work, the estimated expenditure thereon to 31st March, 1902, and the amount available to meet expenditure in 1902-3, together with the expected date of completion [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 762

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Report No. 357 (Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 762

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2857 to 2859 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 762

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was made to the Commissioners of National Education within the last three years to sanction an increase in the number of students (King's scholars) which each such college was authorised to admit to training; (2) the number of students (King's scholars) which each such college was authorised to admit when the above application was made in each case; (3) the increased number of students (King's scholars) asked to be authorised for admission in each case, and the result of each application; and (4) the names of the Training Colleges that applied for equipment grants within the last three years, the sums asked for, and the result of the application in each case."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*) 763

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NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the Borough of Leeds (North Division), in the room of the Right Hon. William Lawies Jackson, now Baron Allerton, called up to the House of Peers.—(*Sir William Walrond.*) ... 791

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) (Ireland) Bill; Shop Clubs Bill, with Amendments ... 791

NEW BILLS.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.—“To continue various expiring laws,” presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 281.] ... 791

PACIFIC CABLE BILL.—“To substitute the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for the Governments of the States of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria in The Pacific Cable Act, 1901,” presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 282.] ... 791

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) ... 791

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again.”—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i> ...	792
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<i>Mr. Alfred Hulton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley)</i> ...	805
<i>Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.)</i> ...	806

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 93; Noes, 213. (Division List No. 307.)

Mr. Charles M^rArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) ... 809

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 38, to leave out from the beginning to the word ‘under,’ in line 40, and to insert the words ‘The local educational authority may appoint managers.’”—(*Mr. Charles M^rArthur.*)

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<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	819

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.)</i>	819
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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 38, after the word 'schools,' to insert the words 'within the area of any local education authority.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	821
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	822
<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	823
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	823
<i>Mr. Channing</i>	824
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton</i>	825
<i>Mr. George White</i>	827
<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	828
<i>Mr. Broadhurst</i>	829
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	831

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 120 ; Noes, 273. (Division List No. 308.)

<i>Mr. Trevelyan</i>	835
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	835

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	837
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	838

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 38 and 39, to leave out the words 'shall be managed in the case of schools'."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

<i>Mr. Trevelyan</i>	842
<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	845

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 38 and 39, to leave out the words 'shall be managed in the case of schools.'"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	845
<i>Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple)</i>	847
<i>Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe)</i>	848
<i>Mr. Frederick Wilson (Norfolk, Mid.)</i>	849
<i>Mr. Edwards (Radnorshire)</i>	849
<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee)</i>	851
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i>	852
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	853
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	854
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	858
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	865
<i>Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford)</i>	868
<i>Mr. Joseph A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden)</i>	868

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 93 ; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 309.)

<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	873
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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'or for the use of which any rent is paid by them.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

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<i>Mr. Ernest Gray</i>	874
<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	874
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton</i>	874
<i>Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.)</i>	875
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant</i>	875
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	875

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House. Committee report progress; to sit again tomorrow.

Midwives Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 876

Education Act, 1901 (Renewal) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed for tomorrow 876

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT 1).—Return ordered “showing, according to the Accounts for the twelve months preceding the 31st day of March, 1902, furnished to the Local Government Board under Section 1 (7) of the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894 :—

- (1) The amounts paid during the year by the London County Council out of the Equalisation Fund under the Act to the Corporation of the City of London and each of the Councils of Metropolitan Boroughs to whom payments out of that fund were made.
- (2) The amount of the expenses incurred during the year by each of these authorities (a) under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, including expenses of scavenging streets; (b) in respect of lighting; and (c) in respect of streets (other than the expenses of scavenging); and—
- (3) The amount expended during the year by each such authority out of the sums received by them under the Act. (In continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 358, of Session 1901).”—(*Mr. Grant Lawson*)... 876

POST OFFICE SITE (OBAN) DRAFT PROVISIONAL ORDER.—Ordered, that the evidence taken before the Committee of this House on the Bill for the Callander and Oban Railway Act, 1897, be referred to the Commissioners appointed under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, to inquire into the Post Office Site (Oban) Draft Provisional Order, 1902.—(*The Lord Advocate*) 876

Adjourned at a quarter after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : TUESDAY, 22ND JULY, 1902.

ROYAL ASSENT; COMMISSION.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent—

1. Finance.
2. Royal Naval Reserve Volunteers.
3. Cremation.
4. Wild Birds Protection Acts Amendment.
5. British Museum.

6. Immoral Traffic (Scotland).
7. Police Reservists.
8. Prison Officers (Pension).
9. Labour Bureaux (London).
10. University of Wales (Graduates).
11. Musical Copyright.
12. Pauper Children (Ireland).
13. London Government Scheme (Southwark).
14. Pilotage Provisional Order.
15. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2).
16. Oyster and Mussel Fishery Provisional Orders.
17. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).
18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).
19. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
20. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
21. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
22. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).
23. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).
24. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).
25. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15).
26. Local Government Provisional Order (Gas).
27. Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes).
28. Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law).
29. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1).
30. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2).
31. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
32. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4).
33. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Gas).
34. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes).
35. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2).
36. Paisley Gas Provisional Order Confirmation.
37. London (Poplar) Provisional Order.
38. Buckie Burgh Extension and Buckie (Craiglenroan) Harbour Order Confirmation.
39. Irvine Corporation Order Confirmation.
40. Stonehaven Town Hall Order Confirmation.
41. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
42. Rothesay Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation.
43. West Hampshire Water.
44. Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway.
45. Bedford Corporation Water.
46. South Metropolitan Gas.
47. Belfast Corporation.
48. Broadstairs Gas.
49. Rickmansworth Gas.
50. Great Northern Railway (No. 1).
51. Bradford Corporation.
52. Northumberland Electric Tramways.
53. Rusthall Manor.
54. City of London (Public Health).
55. Kent Water.
56. South Wales Electrical Power Distribution.
57. West Ham Gas.
58. Ticehurst Water.
59. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Tramways.
60. Knaresborough Improvement.

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61. North British Railway (Steam Vessels).	
62. Halifax Corporation.	
63. Buxton Urban District Council.	
64. Great Northern Railway (No. 2).	
65. Kent Electric Power.	
66. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Steam Vessels).	
67. Leamington Corporation.	
68. Bristol Water.	
69. Leicestershire and Warwickshire Electric Power.	
70. Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads.	
71. Chard Gas.	
72. Commercial Gas.	
73. Great Central Railway.	
74. West Gloucestershire Water.	
75. Huddersfield Corporation.	
76. Manchester Corporation (General Powers).	
77. Imperial Institute.	
78. North British Railway (General Powers).	
79. Nottingham and Retford Railway	877

NEW PEER.

SIR FRANCIS WALLACE GRENFELL, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Lieutenant General in the Army, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the forces, with the rank of General, in Malta, having been created Baron Grenfell of Kilvey, in the county of Glamorgan—was (in the usual manner) introduced	879
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SAT FIRST.

LORD TENTERDEN sat first in Parliament after the death of his father	879
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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Eastbourne Corporation Bill ; Reported with Amendments	879
Bristol Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Medway and Thames Canal Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to	879
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill ; Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next	879
Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Council Bill ; Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	879
Finchley Urban District Council Bill ; Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons	880
Fleetwood Urban District Council Bill ; Brought from the Commons; read 1 ^a ; and referred to the Examiners	880
Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Aberdeen Accountants Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons, agreed to	880

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Central London Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments; the said Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 880

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments ... 880

Caledonian Railway Bill; Omagh Urban District Gas Bill; Salford Corporation Bill; Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill; Great Central and Midland Railways (South Yorkshire Railways) Bill; Midland Railway Bill; Midland Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill; Norwich Corporation (Electricity, etc.) Bill; Cleethorpes Improvement Bill; East Worcestershire Water Bill; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to ... 880

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Moved, That the Order made on the 14th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a (*The Earl of Dudley*); agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House ... 881

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill.—Read 3 (according to order) and passed ... 881

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barnes, etc.) Bill [H.L.].—Commons Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to... ... 881

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill.—Read 3^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 881

New Forest (Sale of lands for Public Purposes) Bill; Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next ... 881

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of—

- I. A light railway in the Counties of Kent and Surrey, from Orpington to Tatsfield.
- II. Light railways in the rural district of Halesowen, in the County of Worcester.
- III. A light railway in the West Riding of the County of York from Holmfild to Southowram.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MIDWIVES BILL.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL. SECOND READING.—*The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh)*... ... 882

Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

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<i>Duke of Devonshire</i>	890

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 22ND JULY, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

ROYAL ASSENT COMMISSION.—Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went and being returned—

Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (see page 877) ...	892
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UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway (Vesting) Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill.—Lords Amendments considered and agreed to	893
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Fleetwood Urban District Council Bill .—As amended, considered... ..	893
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Ordered, That in the case of Fleetwood Urban District Council Bill, as amended, Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

(King's Consent signified); Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed ...	893
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Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill [Lords]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill [Lords]; Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read a second time and committed ...	893
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Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 and No. 3) Bill [Lords]; and Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 and No. 3) Bill [Lords], and Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [Lords], that they have power, if they think fit, to consolidate the said two Bills into one Bill.—(<i>Mr. Bartley.</i>)	893
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MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.	
West Ham Corporation Bill.	
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North-Eastern Railway Bill.	
London and North-Western Railway Bill.	
North Metropolitan Tramways Bill.	
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SOUTH AFRICA—COURTS-MARTIAL COMMISSION.	
[Motion for Adjournment.]	
Mr. Coghill (<i>Stoks-upon-Trent</i>)	913
[Motion ruled out of order.]	
NEW MEMBER SWORN.—Joseph Devlin, esquire, for the County of Kilkenny (North Kilkenny Division).	

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).—Ordered, That three additional days be allotted to the Business of Supply.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

NEW BILL.

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill.—"To amend the Law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man;" presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 283.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'or for the use of which any rent is paid by them.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	914
<i>The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	915
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	915
<i>Mr. James Hope (Sheffield, Brightside)</i>	916
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.)</i>	916
<i>The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)</i>	916
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i>	917
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)</i>	917
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	918
<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	918
<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	921
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	922
<i>Mr. Yoxall (Nottinghamshire, W.)</i>	922

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	923
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Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'and any school not so provided which is the only public elementary school within a radius of three miles.'"—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	925
<i>Mr. Lloyd George</i>	926
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	929
<i>Lord Hugh Cecil (Greenwich)</i>	929
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	930
<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	930
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	931
<i>Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud)</i>	932

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<i>Mr. Caine (Cornwall, Camborne)</i>	933
<i>Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland)</i>	934
<i>Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland)</i>	935
<i>Mr. Emmott (Oldham)</i>	938
<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i>	938
<i>Mr. Tritton (Lambeth, Norwood)</i>	940
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	941
<i>Mr. John Redmond (Waterford)</i>	942
<i>Sir Michael Foster (London University)</i>	942
<i>Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.)</i>	943
<i>Mr. Wallace (Perth)</i>	943
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	944
<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	947
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley)</i>	948
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	949
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	951
<i>Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich)</i>	951
<i>Mr. Helme (Lancashire, Lancaster)</i>	952
<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	954
<i>Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth)</i>	955
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	956

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 243. (Division List No. 310.)

Amendment proposed :—

“In page 2, line 39, to leave out from the word ‘authority,’ to end of clause, and insert the words—‘ shall, where the local education authority are the Council of a County, have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers not exceeding four appointed by that Council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority. Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district they may, if they think fit, appoint for any school provided by them, such number of managers as they may determine.

“(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed—

“(a) Where the local education authority are the Council of a County, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority ; and (b) Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

“(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is, or has been, during the last twelve months, a scholar in the school.

“(4) The ‘minor local authority’ means the Council of any borough or urban district, or the Parish Council or (where there is no Parish Council) the Parish Meeting of any parish which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears

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to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority the County Council shall make such provision as they think proper for joint appointment by the authorities concerned.”—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	962
<i>Sir William Harcourt</i>	964
<i>Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid)</i>	967

(7.8.) Question put.

The Committee divided : Ayes, 91 ; Noes, 267. (Division List No. 311.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton</i>	971
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Amendment proposed—

“In line 2, after ‘shall,’ to insert ‘either singly or in a group.’”—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	971
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER). As amended, considered.

<i>Mr. Plummer (Newcastle)</i>	972
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A Clause (Company to carry bicycles)—(*Mr. Plummer*)—brought up, and read the first and second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That the Clause be added to the Bill.”

<i>Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.)</i>	974
<i>Captain Norton (Newington, W.)</i>	974
<i>Mr. Robson (South Shields)</i>	975
<i>Mr. Parker Smith (Lanarkshire, Partick)</i>	975
<i>Sir Fortescue Flannery (Yorkshire, Shipley)</i>	976
<i>Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby)</i>	976
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	977
<i>Mr. Bartley (Islington, N.)</i>	977
<i>Mr. John Wilson (Durham, Mid.)</i>	978
<i>Mr. Alfred Thomas (Glamorganshire, E.)</i>	978
<i>Mr. Crawford Smith (Northumberland, Tyneside)</i>	978
<i>Mr. Paulton (Durham, Bishop Auckland)</i>	979
<i>Mr. Shaw (Stafford)</i>	979

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 219 ; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 312.)

Amendment made—

“In Clause 59, page 46, line 5, after ‘parcels,’ to insert ‘and bicycles.’”

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 51, page 46, line 5, to leave out ‘6d.’ in order to insert ‘3d.’”—(*Mr. Plummer.*)

<i>Mr. Parker Smith</i> ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	982
<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis</i>...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	983

Amendment made—

“In Clause 63, page 48, after line 26, to insert ‘for every bicycle 3d.’”

<i>Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil)</i>	984
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 48, line 27, to leave out the word ‘sixpence,’ and insert the words ‘one penny’—(*Mr. Keir Hardie*)—instead thereof.”

Question proposed, “That the word ‘sixpence’ stand part of the Bill.”

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 164 ; Noes, 129. (Division List No. 313.)

<i>Mr Keir Hardie</i>	987
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Amendment proposed—

“In page 48, line 28, to leave out from the word ‘provided,’ to the word ‘packages’ in line 31, both inclusive.”—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill.”

<i>Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith)</i>	987
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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[*Mr. J. W. Lowther* (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

July 22.]

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'shall, where the local education authority are the Council of a county, have a body of managers consisting of a body of managers not exceeding four appointed by that Council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority.

'Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, they may, if they think fit, appoint for any school provided by them such number of managers as they may determine.

'(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed—

'(a) Where the local education authority are the Council of a county, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority; and

'(b) Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

'(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority, or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is, or has been, during the last twelve months a scholar in the school.

'(4) The "minor local authority" means the Council of any borough or urban district, or the Parish Council, or (where there is no Parish Council) the parish meeting of any parish which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority, the County Council shall make such provision as they think proper for joint appointment by the authorities concerned.'—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Lloyd-George 989

Amendment proposed to the said proposed Amendment—

"After the first word 'county,' to insert the words 'shall, subject as hereinafter provided, be managed by the minor local authority, and shall.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	991
<i>Mr. Channing</i>	991
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	992
<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i>	993
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen</i>	994
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	995
<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	996

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 80 ; Noes, 230. (Division List No. 314.)

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

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Education Act, 1901 (Renewal) Bill.—Considered in Committee, and reported, without Amendment; Bill read the third time and passed ... 999

Meat Marking (Ireland) Bill.—Order [17th June], That the Meat Marking (Ireland) Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., read and discharged. Bill withdrawn ... 1000

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 23RD JULY, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Way and Means ... 1001

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Rossendale Valley Tramways Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time ... 1001

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to ... 1001

Aberdeen Suburban Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time and passed, without Amendment ... 1001

Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Railway Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time and passed ... 1001

Swansea Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments, and an amended Title; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed ... 1001

Private Bills (Group N).—Mr. Heywood Johnstone reported from the Committee on Group N of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties concerned in the Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords] [Syston and Thurmaston Gas Order], they had adjourned till Tuesday, 29th July, at half-past Eleven of the clock ... 1001

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BANKRUPTCY LAW AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table ... 1001

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Scottish Trade Protection Society and Kirkcaldy; to lie upon the Table ... 1002

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against alteration of Clause 8: From Stratton and Birmingham; to lie upon the Table ... 1002

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions for alteration: From West Riding of Yorkshire; Arllechwedd; France Lynch; Bussage; Blackburn (three); and Cheltenham; to lie upon the Table ... 1002

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

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MORAY FIRTH FOREIGN TRAWLERS.—Return (presented 21st April) to be printed. [No. 289.]	1002
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (HOME WORKS) (MAKING OF CHAINS, ANCHORS, CART GEAR, LOCKS, LATCHES AND KEYS).—Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying Sections 107 and 108 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1902, to factories and workshops in which the making of chains, anchors, cart gear, locks, latches and keys is carried on [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1002
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (PARTICULARS OF PIECE WORK WAGES) (LOCKS, LATCHES, AND KEYS).—Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of locks, latches and keys is carried on [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1003
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (PARTICULARS OF PIECEWORK WAGES) (CHAINS, ANCHORS, AND CART GEAR).—Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Sections 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of chains, anchors, and cart gear is carried on [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1003
BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE.—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Comparative Statistics of Population, Industry, and Commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading Foreign Countries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1003
CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Eleventh Report of the Board, being for the year ending 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1003
NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Sixty-eighth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, being for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table	1003
DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; Mr. Harrington]; to lie upon the Table	1003
LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENGLAND).—Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation Returns for 1900–1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the table, and to be printed. [No. 290]	1003
WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (SCHEMES).—Return ordered, “showing the schemes which have received the sanction of the Department, under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889, and the composition of (a) the County Governing Bodies, and (b) the County School Committees in each County or County Borough in Wales.”—(Mr. Kenyon)	1004

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SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT—DUBLIN SCHEMES.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, the Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover) ... 1014

UNITED IRISH LEAGUE AND THE CORK COURT-HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Moore (Antrim, N.) and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, Mr. Wyndham ...

MARINE WORKS (IRELAND) BILL.—Question, Colonel Nolan (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1015

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FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.—Question, Sir Edward Strachey, (Somersetshire, S.) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1021
EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) ; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	... .. 1022
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) (Ireland) Bill. —Lords' Amendments to be considered forthwith ; considered, and agreed to	... .. 1022

SUPPLY [NINETEENTH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1022

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £1,000."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

<i>Mr. Devlin (Kerry, N.)</i>	... .. 1040
<i>Mr. Macartney (Antrim, S.)</i>	... .. 1043
<i>Mr. MacVeagh (Down Co., S.)</i>	... .. 1051
<i>Mr. William Moore (Antrim, N.)</i>	... .. 1057
<i>Mr. Haldane, (Haddingtonshire)</i>	... .. 1062
<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i>	... .. 1066
<i>Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.)</i>	... .. 1091

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [NINETEENTH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS I.

1. £45,802, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland.

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CLASS II.

2. £12,377, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, Ireland.
3. £10,436, to complete the sum for Valuation and Boundary Survey, Ireland.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

<i>Mr. T. W. Russell</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1092
<i>Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney, Shetland)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1103
<i>Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1106
<i>Colonel Saunderson (Armagh, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1109
<i>Mr Haviland Burke (King's County, Tullamore)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1115
<i>Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1118

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress ; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Dillon*)—put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported tomorrow ; Committee also report Progress ; to sit again tomorrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 24TH JULY, 1902.

NEW PEERS.

VICTOR ALBERT FRANCIS CHARLES, LORD CHURCHILL, K.C.V.O., having been created Viscount Churchill of Rolleston, in the county of Leicester, was, (in the usual manner) introduced ... 1121

ALGERNON BERTRAM FREEMAN-MITFORD, C.V.O., C.B., having been created Baron Redesdale of Redesdale in the county of Northumberland, was (in the usual manner) introduced ... 1121

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Bill read 3^a (according to order) ... 1121

The Secretary for Scotland (Lord Balfour of Burleigh) ... 1121

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 11, page 10, at the end of the Clause to insert as a new Sub-section: 'The provisions of the Conveyance of Mails Act, 1893, with respect to the conveyance of mails on tramways by tramway companies shall apply to the conveyance of mails by the company by means of any vans employed by them for the carriage of parcels on roads.'"—(*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*.)

Amendment agreed to.

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Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Bill passed and sent to the Commons.

London County Council (Subways and Tramways) Bill. —The King's consent signified, and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments	1121
Post Office Sites Bill. —London County Council (Money) Bill. Reported without Amendment	1122
Garson and District Tramways and Electric Supply (Transfer) Bill. —Reported with Amendments.	1122
London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. —Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments	1122
Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed and returned to the Commons ...	1122
London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill. —Whitechapel and Bow Railway Bill.—Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	1122
Metropolitan District Railway Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons ...	1122
Aberdeen Suburban Tramways Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to	1122
Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway (Vesting) Bill. —Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6.) Bill, Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) (Ireland) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to	1122
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. —House in Committee (according to order); The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made; Standing Committee negative; Report of Amendments to be received tomorrow	1122
Electric Lighting Acts Amendment (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.	1122
Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Railway Order Confirmation Bill. —Brought from the Commons; read 1 ^a , to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2 ^a and reported from the Committee. (No. 162.)	1123

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND). —Annual report of the Commissioners for the year 1901.	1123
CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRELAND). —Report of the Board, for the year ended 31st March, 1902	1123
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. —Forty-sixth report of His Majesty's Commissioners; with appendix. Presented (by Command, and ordered to lie on the Table	1123

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SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868 (ORDERS FOR FISHERY GRANTS, 1901-1902).—Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.—Orders made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 14th July, 1902, applying :—

I. Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1902, to factories and workshops in which the making of (1) Locks, latches, and keys ; (2) Chains, anchors, and cart gear ; is carried on.

II. Sections 107 and 108 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of chains, anchors, cart gear, locks, latches, and keys is carried on.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

TRADE REPORT : ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2860. Russia (St. Petersburg) ;
No. 2861. Portugal (Chinde) ;
No. 2862. China (Canton) 1123

AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND).—Return for the quarter ended 30th June, 1902 1123

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Return for the month of March, 1902 1123

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE.—Memorandum on the comparative statistics of population, industry, and commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries 1124

PETITION.

LICENSING BILL.—Petition in favour of ; of the Good Templars of Nottingham ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1124

LICENSING BILL.—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received on Monday next ; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 159.) 1124

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.].—A Bill for the better prevention of Corruption, was presented by the Lord Chancellor ; read 1^a ; and to be printed. (No. 160.) 1124

New Forest (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes) Bill ; COMMONS REGULATION (SODBURY) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.—Read 3^a (according to order), and passed 1124

EDUCATION ACT, 1901 (RENEWAL) BILL.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1^a ; and to be printed. (No. 161.) 1124

COOPERS HILL COLLEGE.

Lord Stanley of Alderley 1124
The Under Secretary of State for India (The Earl of Hardwicke) ... 1130

SOMALILAND.

<i>Lord Wolverton</i>	1132
<i>The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne)</i> ...	1133

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till tomorrow half past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 24th JULY, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence from this Evening's Sitting of the Chairman of Ways and Means 1136

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Consett Water Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1136

Felixstowe and Walton Improvement Bill [LORDS].—Verbal Amendments made (King's Content signified); Bill read the third time, and passed with Amendments 1137

Hastings Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1137

Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1137

Taff Vale Railway Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1137

Leicester Corporation Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; an Amendment made; Bill to be read the third time 1137

Wrexham District Tramways Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1137

Railway Bills (Group 10).—Mr. ASHTON reported from the Committee on Group 10 of Railway Bills; That Mr. Skewes-Cox, one of the members of the said Committee, was not present during the sitting of the Committee this day.

Ordered, that Mr. Skewes-Cox do attend the Committee on Group 10 of Railway Bills Tomorrow, at Eleven of the clock 1137

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill, Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, without Amendment, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Council Bill, Finchley Urban District Council Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to, Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barnes, etc.) Bill [Lords], Bristol Corporation Bill [Lords], Medway and Thames Canal Bill [Lords], Central London Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment 1137

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Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1 Bill) [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill, as amended, to be considered Tomorrow	1138
North Staffordshire Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1138
Hastings Harbour District Railways (Extension of Time) Bill [LORDS].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1138
Barrow Hæmatite Steel Company, Limited, Bill [LORDS].—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table	1138
Dover Harbour Bill [LORDS]; Liverpool Cathedral Bill [Lords]; Nottingham Corporation Bill [Lords]; Margate Corporation Water Bill [Lords].— Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1138
Edgware and Hampstead Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported with Amendments, and an amended Title; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1138

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Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.												
1	2	3	4		Sites and buildings.								Other Expenditure.				
	Postal receipts.	Extra receipts.	Estimated value of services to other departments.	Total.	Purchase.	Erection.	Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, &c., to total Revenue.	Conveyance of mails.	Percentage of conveyance of mails to total Revenue.	Packet service.	Under Post Office Vote.	Under other Votes.	Total Expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1140

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Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.														
1	2	3	4	Total.	Sites and Buildings.		Telegraph extension.	Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, wages, &c., to total Revenue.	Maintenance of telegraph system.	Percentage of maintenance of telegraph system to total Revenue.	Other Expenditure.		Total Expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.*	Net Revenue after deducting Columns 5, 6, and 7.	Interest on stock created for purchase of telegraphs.
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Mr. Austen Chamberlain ... 1141

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Imported Meat (Ireland) Bill.—“For regulating the sale in Ireland of Imported meat,” presented by Mr. Field, under Standing Order No. 31; supported by Captain Donelan, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, and Mr. Clancy; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 285] ...	1160
Detention of Poor Persons (Scotland) Bill.—“To extend the powers of the Local Government Board for Scotland in regard to the Detention of Poor Persons in poor houses and parish hospitals,” presented by Mr. Baird, under Standing Order No. 31; supported by Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Andrew Agnew, and Mr. Craig; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 286] ...	1160

SUPPLY [TWENTIETH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That a sum, not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the salaries and expenses of the offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums.”

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)	1161
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Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.)	1186
Mr. Asquith (Fife, E.)	1190
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Mr. Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.)	1200
Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.)	1202
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam)	1206
Mr. Charles Douglas (Lanarkshire, N.W.)	1208

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [TWENTIETH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £1,000, in respect of the Salary of the Chief Secretary."—(Mr. Dillon.)

<i>Mr. Chalmers Douglas</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1211
<i>Mr. William O'Brien (Cork)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1215
<i>Mr. John Morley (Montrose Burghs)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1224
<i>The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Wyndham, Dover)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1238

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £1,000 in respect of the Salary of the Chief Secretary."—(Mr. Dillon.)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 135 ; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 315).

Original Question put, and agreed to.

It being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1251

MR. T. M. HEALY AND LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD—A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. T. M. Healy 1252

Adjourned at ten minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 25TH JULY, 1902

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHARLES JOHN LORD COLVILLE OF CULROSS, K.T., G.C.V.O., Lord Chamberlain to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, having been created Viscount Colville of Culross, was (in the usual manner) introduced 1253

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PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with— Fleetwood Urban District Council. The same was ordered to lie on the Table.	1253
Liverpool Corporation Bill. —Reported, with Amendments	1253
Clay Cross Railway Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments ; a further Amendment made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.	1253
Great Western Railway (Crumlin Viaduct) Bill. <i>Lord Hawkesbury</i>	1253
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Hastings Tramways Bill [H.L.] ; Taff Vale Railway Bill [H.L.] —Returned from the Commons agreed to	1253
Felixstowe and Walton Improvement Bill [H.L.] —Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments	1254
Consett Water Bill [H.L.] ; Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [H.L.] —Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to	1254
Post Office Sites Bill. —Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next	1254
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. —Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3 ^a on Monday next	1254

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

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WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR (BOARD OF TRADE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT).—Report relating to changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1901, with statistical tables Presented [by Command], and ordered to lie on the Table	1254
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PUBLIC RECORDS (SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE).—Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the Supreme Court Taxing Office, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1255

Public Libraries (Ireland) Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Killanin 1255

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Killanin.*)

On Question, agreed to ; Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION FROM THE UNITED STATES.

Lord Burghclere 1256

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (The Earl of Onslow) ... 1257

MILITARY BAND IN THE PHOENIX PARK, DUBLIN.

The Earl of Mayo 1258

The Earl of Denbigh 1258

HOLYHEAD NONCONFORMIST VOLUNTARY SCHOOL.

Lord Stanley of Alderley 1259

The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire) ... 1259

House adjourned at Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 25TH JULY, 1902.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

City of London (Spitalfields Market) Bill ; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill ; London and North Western Railway Bill ; London County Council (General Powers) Bill ; Metropolitan Railway Bill ; Newport Corporation Bill ; North Eastern Railway Bill ; North Metropolitan Tramways Bill ; West Ham Corporation Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 1261

Weardale and Shildon District Water Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1261

Local Government Provisional Orders (No 4) Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 1261

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No 1) Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time upon Monday next 1261

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against : From Paisley ; Barnet ; Edinburgh ; Hebden Bridge ; and, Middlesbrough ; to lie upon the Table 1262

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SOUTHERN RHODESIA.—Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the Regulation and Supply of Labour in Southern Rhodesia [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1263
SOUTH AFRICA.—Copy presented, of Further Correspondence relating to Affairs in South Africa [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1263
BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (CHANGES IN WAGES), ETC.—Copy presented, of Report and Statistical Tables relating to Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, 1901 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table	1263
EAST INDIA (FOREIGN COMPETITION, LOCOMOTIVES).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 16th July ; <i>Mr. Bonar Law</i>] ; to lie upon the Table.	

Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

1. Public Roads (Supreme Court of Judicature, Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents existing or accruing in the Supreme Court Taxing Office, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].
2. Lunacy, Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June, 1902 [by Act].

NEW WRITS.

For the County of Lancaster, North-East (Clitheroe Division), in the room of the right hon. Sir Ughtred James Kay-Shuttleworth, Baronet, now Baron Shuttleworth, called up to the House of Peers.—(*Mr. Causton*) 1263

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

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CROWN FORESHORE RIGHTS IN BELLACRAGHER BAY.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham ... 1266

MILITIA ENTRANCE EXAMINATION.—Question, Major Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Brodrick ... 1267

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Mr. M'Kean (Monaghan, S.) ... 1286
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) ... 1292
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) ... 1299
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Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) ... 1315
Mr. M'Cann (Dublin, St. Stephen's Green) ... 1320

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 117; Noes, 168. (Division List No. 316.)

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Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn 1327

Shops Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged 1327

Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to: New Forest (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes) Bill, Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment—

Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill, London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway Bill, Whitechapel and Bow Railway Bill, Metropolitan District Railway Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways" [Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill [Lords] 1327

Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 4th August, and to be printed. [Bill 287] 1327

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—Fifth Report, with Minutes of Evidence brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 296] 1328

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—Sixth Report, with Minutes of Evidence, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 297] 1328

Great Northern and City Railway Bill [LORDS].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1328

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships copies of the Reports from the Select Committees appointed by this House in the present session of Parliament on:—1, Public Accounts; 2, Saving Banks Funds; 3, Steamship Subsidies; 4, Private Business; 5, National Expenditure; together with the Proceedings of the Committees and Minutes of Evidence.

Copies of the Reports, &c., to be communicated 1328

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS, MONDAY: JULY 28TH, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order).

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“After sub-Clause (5.) to insert the following new sub-Clause :—
(6.) The Corporation shall, within five years from the commencement of the said Order, establish within the Garston District a public library and public baths.”—(*Earl Waldegrave.*)

<i>Lord Newton</i>	1329
<i>The Lord President of the Council (The Duke of Devonshire)</i> ...	1329
<i>Earl Waldegrave</i>	1329
<i>Earl Spencer</i>	1330

Amendment agreed to; Standing Committee negatived; Report of Amendments to be received Tomorrow.

London United Tramways Bill. —The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.	1330
Felixstowe and Walton Improvement Bill [H.L.] .—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to	1330
London County Council (Money) Bill. —Read 3 ^a and passed	1330
Garston and District Tramways and Electric Supply (Transfer) Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	1330
Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock (South Yorkshire Extension Lines) Bill. —Read 3 ^a , with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons...	1330
Weardale and Shildon District Water Bill [H.L.] .—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to	1330
Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; City of London (Spitalfields Market) Bill; West Ham Corporation Bill; Newport Corporation Bill; North-Eastern Railway Bill; London and North-Western Railway Bill; North Metropolitan Tramways Bill; Croydon and District Electric Tramways Bill; Metropolitan Railway Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to	1331
Richmond Hill (Preservation of View) Bill. —Reported, with Amendments	1331
London and India Docks (Various Powers) Bill. —Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments	1331
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 12) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; Report of Amendments to be received tomorrow	1331
Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. —Read 3 ^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons	1331

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CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).—Fifty-seventh annual

Report of the Commissioners... 1332

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1901.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table ... 1332

LUNACY.—Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended 30th June, 1902 ... 1332**SUPERANNUATION.**—Return for the year ended 31st March, 1902, of the Army and Navy officers permitted, under Rule 2 of the regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Superannuation Act, 1877, to hold civil employment of profit under public Departments ... 1332**ASSIZES ACTS, 1876 TO 1879.**—Order in Council of 26th July, 1902, directing that the town of Cardiff shall, for the summer assizes, 1902, be the place where assizes are holden in and for the county of Glamorgan ... 1332**INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).**—Accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, for the year ended 31st December, 1901, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1332

Post Office Sites Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported, without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow ... 1332**Licensing Bill.**—Amendments reported (according to order).*Earl of Rosebery* ... 1333*Lord Belper* ... 1333*Lord Chancellor (the Earl of Halsbury)* ... 1334*Lord James of Hereford* ... 1334*Earl of Rosebery* ... 1335

Formal Amendment, giving the Court power to remove a woman, with her consent, to a retreat, agreed to.

Lord Burghclere ... 1336*Duke of Devonshire* ... 1336Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.**Public Libraries (Ireland) Bill.**—House in Committee (according to order).

Bill reported without Amendment; and recommitted to the Standing Committee ... 1336

Education Act, 1901, Renewal Bill (SECOND READING).—Order of the day for the Second Reading read*Earl of Northbrook* ... 1336

"Moved, That the Bill be now read 2*."—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

<i>Earl Spencer</i>	1336
<i>The Duke of Devonshire</i>	1337

On Question agreed to. Bill read 2* accordingly; Committee negatived. Then Standing Orders Nos. xxxix. and xlv. considered (according to order) and dispensed with. Bill read 3*, and passed.

LIGHT LOAD LINE.—Moved that a Select Committee be appointed to inquire and report—

- I. Whether, and, if so, to what extent, British ships are sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition by reason of their being insufficiently or improperly ballasted;
- II. Whether any Amendment or amplification of the present law is desirable in connection therewith;
- III. If so, to what extent any such alteration of the law could be made equally applicable to foreign vessels.—(*The Earl of Dudley.*)

Agreed to; and ordered accordingly. 1337

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock till tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, MONDAY, 28TH JULY, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Council Bill ; Finchley Urban District Council Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to. ...	1338
Leicester Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments	1338
North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill [LORDS] King's Consent Signified .—Read the third time, and, passed, with Amendments ...	1338
Rossendale Valley Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Wrexham District Tramways Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments ...	1338
Menai Bridge Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Amendments made, Bill to be read the third time	1338
Whitstable Improvement Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time	1339
Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed with Amendments.	1339
Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 AND No. 3) Bill [LORDS] AND Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [LORDS], CONSOLIDATED INTO " Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill [LORDS]."—Reported with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed	1339

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Railway Bills (Group 12).—Sir Lewis MacIver reported from the Committee on Group 12 of Railway Bills; That for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at half-past eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table ... 1339

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered tomorrow ... 1339

Ystradfellte Water Bill [LORDS]; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill [Lords]; North-West London Railway Bill [Lords]; Saddleworth and Springhead Tramways Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed ... 1339

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Clay Cross Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—Consett Water Bill [Lords, Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment ... 1339

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EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petition from Eccles against; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions for alteration: From Leicester; and Standish; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE).—Petition from Bradford, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.—Petitions in favour: From Ripon; Coleraine; and Carmarthen; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (FOREIGN COMPETITION, LOCOMOTIVES).—Return [presented 25th July] to be printed. [No. 298.] ... 1340

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (GENERAL REPORT).—Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

SOUTH AFRICA (DESPATCHES).—Copy presented, of Despatch by General Lord Kitchener, dated 23rd June, 1902, relative to military operations in South Africa [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table ... 1340

ASSIZES ACTS, 1876 TO 1879.—Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 26th July, 1902, directing that the town of Cardiff shall, for the summer assizes, 1902, be the place where assizes are holden in and for the County of Glamorgan [by Act]; to lie upon the Table	1341
SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copy presented, of Return for the year ended 31st March 1902 of the Army and Navy Officers permitted, under Rule 2 of the Regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Act, to hold civil employment of profit under Public Departments [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 299]	1341
COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1898 AND 1901.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd June; <i>Mr. Lough</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 300.]	1341
LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st July: <i>Mr. Grant Lawson</i>]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 301.]	1341
EVICCTIONS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th June, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House	1341
INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for 1901, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 302.]	1341
TECHNICAL EDUCATION (APPLICATION OF FUNDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Return ordered, "showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, Local Authorities in England and Wales have applied funds to the purposes of technical education (including Science, Art, Technical and Manual Instruction) during the year 1901-2, under the following Acts: Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890; Technical Instruction Acts, 1889 and 1891; Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889; and Public Libraries and Museums Acts."—(<i>Sir John Gorst</i>)	1341

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

INDIA—RE-ARMAMENT OF NATIVE ARMY.—Question, Mr. Weir (<i>Ross and Cromarty</i>); Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1342
MILITARY FACTORIES TO RENDER INDIA SELF-SUPPORTING IN WAR MATERIAL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1342
DARJEELING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1343
SALT SUPPLY TO KHAIRPUR.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1343
CORONATION—INDIA OFFICE RECEPTION—CHARGE ON INDIAN REVENUES.—Question, Mr. Labouchere; Answer, Lord George Hamilton	1343
GLASGOW TRAMWAYS—LIFEGUARD.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	1344
DINGWALL AND CROMARTY LIGHT RAILWAY ORDER.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	1344

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RETURN OF FLEETS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	1345
H.M.S. "LONDON."—Question, Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	1345
CORONATION NAVAL REVIEW.—Question, Lord Charles Beresford (Woolwich); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster	1345
NORTH WESTERN DISTRICT POST OFFICE—RETIREMENT OF MR. STUMP.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (MerthyrTydvil); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain	1346
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KENMARE (KERRY) MARINE WORKS.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1347
KING'S SCHOLARS EXAMINATION.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1347
IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION—SCIENCE SYLLABUS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1349
MAGHERALOUGH (TYRONE) ROADS.—Question, Mr. Murnaghan (Tyrone, Mid); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1349
KINWARA (GALWAY) HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1350
ARMY—RESERVE OFFICERS PROMOTION.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Brodrick	1350
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2ND LIFE GUARDS—OFFICERS' HORSE PLAY.—Questions, Mr. Labouchere (Northampton), Major Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answers, Mr. Brodrick.	1353.
SANDHURST COLLEGE—INCENDIARY FIRES AND DISTURBANCES—INDISCRIMINATE PUNISHMENT OF CADETS.—Question, Mr. Winston Churchill (Oldham); Answer, Mr. Brodrick.	1353

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS FOR THE NAVY.—Questions, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork Co., W.), and Captain Donelan (Cork Co., E.); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast W.)	1354
NAVAL GUNNERY.—Questions, Lord Charles Beresford (Woolwich), and Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, Mr. Arnold Forster	1354
INDIA—WEATHER TELEGRAMS.—Question, Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Lord George Hamilton, Middlesex, Ealing)	1355
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CITY FIRE INQUEST.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Ritchie, Croydon)	1356
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VACCINATION—GLYCERINATED CALF LYMPH.—Question, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.)	1358
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AT RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES.—Questions, Mr. Charles M'Arthur (Liverpool, Exchange), and Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W. R., Holmfirth); Answers, The Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University)	1358
INVERGARRY AND FORT AUGUSTUS RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. John Dewar (Inverness-shire); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. A. Graham Murray, Buteshire)	1360
BANTRY FARI.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly; Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour	1361
TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESSES.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.)	136
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LABOURERS' COTTAGE SCHEMES IN THE LONGFORD UNION.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1363
ANNALLY (COUNTY LONGFORD) ESTATE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1363
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CRAUGHWELL (SLIGO) MURDER.—Question, Mr. Tully (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Wyndham	1366
IRISH UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Dillon; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.)	1366.
GIBRALTAR DEFENCES.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1367
ATLANTIC SHIPPING TRUST.—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1367
METEOROLOGICAL GRANT.—Question, Mr. John Dewar; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1368.
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.), Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour	1368.
SOUTH AFRICA—COURTS MARTIAL COMMISSION.	

[Motion for Adjournment.]

Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.)... .. 1370.

Motion made and Question put, that Mr. Swift MacNeill be given leave to move the Adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the composition of the Commission appointed to inquire into the sentences imposed by military courts established under martial law in South African Colonies and Protectorates," but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. Speaker called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen,

The Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 17, until the evening sitting this day.

Patent Law Amendment Bill.—Reported, from the Standing Committee on Trade etc., with Amendments.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 303.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 303.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 288.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.)

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1371.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That until the 8th August, Government business be not interrupted, except at half-past seven of the clock in the afternoon, under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House; and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—*(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)*

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<i>Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	1373
<i>Mr. James Lowther (Kent, Thanet)</i>	1375
<i>Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean)</i>	1376
<i>Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis)</i>	1377
<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee)</i>	1379
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	1381
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	1384
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1387
<i>Mr Corrie Grant (Warwickshire, Rugby)</i>	1390

Amendment proposed—

“After the first word ‘Business,’ to insert the words ‘with the exception of the Education (England and Wales) Bill and the London Water (re-committed) Bill.’”—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

<i>Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs)</i>	1393
<i>Mr. Lough (Islington, W.)</i>	1394
<i>Sir George Neumes (Swansea Town)</i>	1395
<i>Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs)</i>	1396
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)</i>	1397
<i>Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.)</i>	1397
<i>Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich)</i>	1398

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 317.)

Main Question again proposed.

<i>Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck)</i>	1401
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Amendment proposed—

To leave out the words “except at half-past Seven of the clock in the afternoon.”—(*Mr. Fenwick.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question.”

<i>Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley)</i>	1404
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Mr. A. J. Balfour rose in his place, and claimed to move, “That the Question be now put ;” but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, being of opinion that the House was prepared shortly to come to a decision.

Question again proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question ”

<i>Mr. Edmund Robertson</i>	1405
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Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 215 ; Noes, 155. (Division List No. 318.)

Main Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 216 ; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 319.)

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Ordered, That until the 8th August, Government business be not interrupted, except at half-past seven of the clock in the afternoon, under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House; and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and that in the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 39, after the word ‘authority,’ to insert the words—“shall, where the local education authority are the council of a county, have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers not exceeding four appointed by that council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority. Where the local education authority are the council of a borough or urban district they may if they think fit appoint for any school provided by them such numbers of managers as they may determine.

“(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed :—(a) Where the local education authority are the council of a county, one by that council and one by the minor local authority; and (b) where the local education authority are the council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

“(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority, or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is or has been during the last twelve months a scholar in the school.

“(4) The ‘minor local authority’ means the council of any borough or urban district, or the parish council, or (where there is no parish council) the parish meeting of any parish, which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority the County Council shall make such provision as they think proper for joint appointment by the authorities concerned.”—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question again proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1414

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“In line 2, to leave out the word ‘body,’ and insert the word ‘Committee.’”—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'body' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1414
<i>Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1415
<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1416
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen (Montgomeryshire)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1416
<i>Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1416
<i>Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1417
<i>Mr. Whitley (Halifax)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1417
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1418
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1419
<i>Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1419
<i>Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1419

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

<i>Mr. Alfred Hutton</i>	1420
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the first word 'managers,' to insert the word 'annually appointed and.'"—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1420
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1421
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1421
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1421
<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis (Flint Boroughs)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1421
<i>Mr. Helme (Lancashire, Lancaster)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1422
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1422

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 263. (Division List No. 320.)

<i>Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.)</i>	1425
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the first word 'managers,' to insert the words 'of both sexes.'"—(*Colonel Williams.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1425
<i>Mr. Bryce</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1426
<i>Mr. Ernest Gray (West Ham, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1427
<i>Dr. Shipman (Northampton)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1428
<i>The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	1428
<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	1429
<i>Mr. Bousfield (Hackney, N.)</i>	1422
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1430
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	1431

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Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis</i>	1431
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“In line 2, after the word ‘managers,’ to insert the words ‘of whom at least one shall be a woman.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment.”

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1432
<i>Mr. McKenna</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1432
<i>Mr. Bousfield</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1432
<i>Mr. Emmott (Oldham)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1433
<i>Mr. C. P. Scott (Lancashire, Leigh)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1433
<i>Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1433
<i>Mr. William Jones (Carmarvonshire, Arfon)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1434
<i>Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1434
<i>Mr. Broadhurst (Leicester)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1434

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, “That the Question be now put.”

Question put, “That the Question be now put.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 194 ; Noes, 148. (Division List No. 321.)

Question put accordingly, “That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment.”

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 99 ; Noes, 239. (Division List No. 322.)

It being after half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SOUTH AFRICA—COURTS MARTIAL COMMISSION—[MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.]

<i>Mr. Swift MacNeill</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1441
<i>Mr. Black (Banffshire)</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1449

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That this House do now adjourn.”
—(*Mr. Swift MacNeill.*)

<i>The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford)</i>	...	1451
<i>Sir. H Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs)</i>	...	1453

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, “That the Question be now put.”

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 168 ; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 323.)

Question put accordingly "That the House do now adjourn."

The House divided :—Ayes, 64 ; Noes, 210. (Division List No. 324.)

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

(Mr. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith, in the Chair.)

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority' to insert the words 'shall, where the local education authority are the Council of a county, have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers not exceeding four appointed by that Council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority. Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district they may, if they think fit, appoint for any school provided by them such number of managers as they may determine.

"(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed (a) where the local education authority are the Council of a county, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority ; and (b) where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

"(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority, or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is or has been during the last twelve months a scholar in the school.

"(4) The 'minor local authority' means the Council of any borough or urban district, or the Parish Council, or (where there is no Parish Council) the Parish Meeting of any parish, which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority the County Council shall make such provision as they think for joint appointment by the authorities concerned."—
(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Dr. Shipman 1461

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'managers,' to insert the words 'neither sex nor coverture to be taken as a disability.'"—(Dr. Shipman.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

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<i>Sir William Anson (Oxford University)</i>	1462

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Channing</i>	1463
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment —

“In line 2, after the second word ‘managers,’ to insert the words ‘to be fixed by the Council, and in no case to be less than six, and of this number.’”—*Mr. Channing*.

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment.

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1464
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen</i>	1464
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1464
<i>Mr. Sydney Buxton</i>	1465
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	1465
<i>Sir William Harcourt (Monmouthshire, W.)</i>	1466
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<i>Mr. Cripps (Lancashire, Stretford)</i>	1466
<i>Sir Francis Powell (Wigan)</i>	1467
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<i>Mr. Henry Hobhouse (Somersetshire, E.)</i>	1468
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	1469
<i>Mr. Channing</i>	1469
<i>Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley)</i>	1469
<i>Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.)</i>	1470
<i>Mr. Whitley</i>	1470

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 98 ; Noes, 266. (Division List No. 325.)

<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis</i>	1473
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“In lines 2 and 3 to leave out the words ‘not exceeding four,’ and insert the words ‘of whom one-third shall be.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis*).

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment.

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1475
<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	1476
<i>Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston)</i>	1477
<i>Mr. Edwards (Radnorshire)</i>	1477
<i>Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland)</i>	1478
<i>Sir Brampton Gurdon</i>	1479
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<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	1480
<i>Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice (Wiltshire, Cricklade)</i>	1480
<i>Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey)</i>	1481

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<i>Mr. Broadhurst</i>	1483
<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1484
<i>Mr. Lloyd-George</i>	1484
<i>Mr. William Abraham (Glamorganshire, Rhondda)</i>	1486

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 179 ; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 326.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 170 ; Noes, 126. (Division List No. 327.)

Mr. Bryce 1491

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour... .. 1493

Mr. William Redmond (Clare E.)... .. 1494

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 119 ; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 328.)

Mr. Herbert Lewis 1497

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'four,' to insert the words 'selected from eight names submitted by the minor local authority and.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education (Sir John Gorst, Cambridge University) 1498

Mr. Channing 1498

Mr. Broadhurst 1499

Mr. Corrie Grant 1500

Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 1500

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 109 ; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 329.)

Mr. Joseph A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) 1503

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'Council,' to insert the words, 'two of whom shall be members of that Council.'"—(*Mr. Joseph A. Pease.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 1504

Mr. Courtenay Warner 1505

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<i>Mr. Runciman</i>	1505
<i>Mr. Humphreys-Owen</i>	1506

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Joseph Walton</i> (<i>Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley</i>)	1506
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“In line 3, to leave out the word ‘two,’ and insert the word ‘three.’”—*Mr. Joseph Walton.*

Question proposed, “That the word ‘two’ stand part of the proposed Amendment.”

<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	1506
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Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 155 ; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 330.)

<i>Mr. Herbert Lewis</i>	1509
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“In line 3, after the word ‘two,’ to insert the word ‘subsequently.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘subsequently’ be there inserted in the proposed Amendment.”

<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	1509
<i>Mr. Lloyd George</i>	1509

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

<i>Mr. Corrie Grant</i>	1509
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Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

“In line 2, after the first ‘managers,’ insert ‘to whom the local education authority may from time to time delegate such of their powers and under such conditions as they think fit. It shall consist.’”—(*Mr Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment.”

<i>Sir Robert Finlay</i>	1510
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Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT.—Motion made, and Question, “That this House do now adjourn.”—(*Sir William Walrond*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at Three o'clock a.m.

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOLUME CXI.

ERRATUM.

Page 978 (22nd July, 1902). The speech attributed to Mr. Alfred Thomas was made by Mr. Abel Thomas (Carmarthenshire, E.)

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE

THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, IN THE
SECOND YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

ELEVENTH VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 11th July, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners, that no further Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill—

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

EASTBOURNE CORPORATION BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, no parties having appeared in opposition thereto; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 23rd of June last and 3rd instant discharged; and Bill committed.

YORK CORPORATION BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

VOL. CXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

NORTH METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS] BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

CLEETHORPES IMPROVEMENT BILL.

The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

CHARD GAS BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.]

SALFORD CORPORATION BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

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CALEDONIAN RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

COMMERCIAL GAS BILL,**GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY BILL.**

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments, agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 13) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL [H.L.].

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 2) BILL,

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [H.L.]

Read 3^a (according to order), and sent to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.**TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.**

No. 2847. Uruguay.

No. 2848. Western Pacific (Friendly Islands).

No. 2849. Corea.

No. 2850. China (Foochow).

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Thirty-fourth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records, for the year 1901.

INDIA (NORTH-WEST FRONTIER).

Shahsud Waziri operations.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA (FOREIGN JURISDICTION).

Order in Council, 1902. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MIDWIVES BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 11th July, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.**PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).**

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Tramways Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time upon Monday next.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION BILL, MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

STONEHAVEN TOWN HALL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

COMMONS REGULATION (SODBURY) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION [BARNES, &c.] BILL [LORDS].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

**GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN
RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION.**

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Glasgow and South Western Railway, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland.

**GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN
RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION
BILL.**

To confirm a Provisional Order under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Glasgow and South Western Railway, presented accordingly; and, under 62 and 63 Vic., c. 47, s. 7 (2), ordered to be considered upon Monday next.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Amendments to, Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bridgend (Glamorgan-shire) Gas and Water, Goring and Streatley District Gas and Water, Marlow Water, Mid Kent Water, and Pinxton Water." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].

**GAS AND WATER ORDERS
CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].**

Read the first time; Referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 271.]

PETITIONS.

**EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)
BILL.**

Petitions for alteration: From East Workham; Leicester (three); Talgarrey; and Holton St. Nicholas; to lie upon the Table.

VIVISECTION.

Petition from London, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC RECORDS (IRELAND).

Copy presented of thirty-fourth Report of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records and Keeper of the State Papers in Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.

Return presented relative thereto [ordered 24th June; *Mr. Mount*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 267.]

**CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND)
ACT (1886) AMENDMENT BILL.**

Second Reading upon Tuesday next.

**SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE
(SCOTLAND) BILL.**

Second Reading upon Tuesday next.

SEA FISHERIES (IRELAND) ACT, 1883.

Return ordered, "of the sums expended to date on Sea Fisheries (Ireland) Harbours, Piers, and Boatslips (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 272, of Session 1898)."—(*Mr. Moore.*)

**ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 7) BILL [LORDS].**

Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating the nature of the Proposals contained in the Provisional Orders included in the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill [Lords]."—(*Mr. Gerald Balfour.*)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

**Indian Railways—Alleged Blackmailing
of Third-class Native Passengers.**

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state whether any steps are being taken to deal with the system of blackmailing third-class native passengers on Indian railways by the police.

(*Answer.*) I have no information on the subject to show that such a system exists, but the Viceroy is about to appoint a Commission of Inquiry into police administration, which will doubtless investigate any complaints of the kind that may be laid before it.—(*India Office.*)

Indian Railways—Tenders for Locomotives.

MR. BONAR LAW (Glasgow, Blackfriars): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will lay upon the Table of the House the recent correspondence between himself and certain Glasgow firms upon the subject of the competition between British and German locomotives.

(Answer.) I shall be glad to lay the correspondence upon the Table if the hon. Member will move for it.—(*India Office.*)

Ireland—Duties of Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland what are the duties of the Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; under what statute is the office established and the duties appertaining thereto prescribed and defined.

(Answer.) The duties of the Under Secretary are not defined by statute. He is the permanent representative of the Executive Government in Ireland, and, as such, assists in conducting the general executive business of the country. The office was created in 1777, but not by statute.—(*Irish Office.*)

South Africa—Enteric Fever Among the Troops—Statistics.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state the total number of deaths from enteric fever amongst our troops in South Africa from 11th October, 1899, to 10th October, 1900, the first year of the war; from 11th October, 1900, to 10th October, 1901, the second year of the war; and from 11th October, 1901, to 31st May, 1902, when the war ended; and what has been the mortality from enteric per 1,000 mean strength during these periods.

(Answer.) The statistics are as follow:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1000.
Oct. 13, 1899 to Oct. 12, 1900	3,774	20·97
Oct. 13, 1900 to Oct. 11, 1901	2,561	10·63
Oct. 12, 1901 to May 30, 1902	1,656	6·84

—(*War Office.*)

Volunteer Long Service Medal.

MR. PLUMMER (Newcastle-on-Tyne): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that service in the Yeomanry is allowed to count towards honorary rank in the Volunteer force, a similar recognition can be made in reckoning the number of years necessary for securing the Volunteer Long Service Medal.

(Answer.) As I have already explained to the House this session, this medal is intended for Volunteer service only, and it would be difficult to allow men to reckon paid service in other forces as if it had been voluntary service.—(*War Office.*)

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

London Water Bill—Equalisation of Water Charges.

SIR MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether sub-Clause (6) of Clause 15 of the London Water Bill, which was inserted by the Joint Committee, will have the effect of preventing any equalisation of water charges.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I think not. The Water Board will acquire all the rights and powers of the several water companies, and, with a view to the equalisation of the water charges, they will be able to alter, within the limits prescribed by the Acts relating to any particular company, the rates now charged by that company for the supply of water, subject to this, that they must not reduce the rates below those in force during the quarter ended on June 24th, 1902, if such reduction would, or would be likely to, cause a deficiency in the water fund. The reason for this limitation is that the amount of any deficiency in the water fund would have to be made out of the general rates levied in the area under the Water Board.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Does that practically mean that if the rates are lower in one district than another at the present moment, the higher rate cannot be lowered because of the deficiency?

MR. WALTER LONG: The higher rate cannot be lowered if, in the opinion of the Water Board, it would cause a deficiency. Lower rates may be raised, but higher rates cannot be lowered

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Police Reservists Bill.

Prison Officers (Pensions) Bill, without Amendment.

Amendments to Musical Copyright Bill [Lords].

And have made a consequential Amendment to the Bill.

LONDON WATER (RE-COMMITTED) BILL.

(12.10.) Order for Committee read.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON had the following Instruction on the Paper on going into Committee on this Bill:—
“That, as the Joint Committee to whom the Bill was referred first rejected the proposal of the Bill in reference to the constitution of the authority to be created for the purchase and management of the water supply of the Metropolis, and were then evenly divided as to its constitution, it be an Instruction to the Committee that they have power to provide for the purchase of the undertakings by an existing authority, pending the further consideration by a Select Committee or otherwise of the authority to be created to hold and to manage the undertakings after they shall have been purchased.”

*MR. SPEAKER: The Instruction of the hon. Member is not in order. The Bill proposes that a Water Board shall be created to purchase certain undertakings, and there are subsequent provisions for the transfer and carrying on of the undertakings by the Board. The Instruction proposes that the Board shall be struck out of the Bill, that the purchaser shall be some unnamed existing authority, and that the Committee, instead of dealing with the rest of the Bill, shall postpone its consideration for an indefinite time. That is not in the nature of an Instruction, but rather of a destructive Second Reading Amendment to the whole Bill, and it would raise a Second Reading debate on the whole principle of the Bill. For these reasons I think the Instruction is out of order, and I leave the Chair.

Bill considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 1:—

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) asked the permission of the Committee to state the strong reasons which impelled him to move to report progress. He submitted that this was a very exceptional case. In the first place, the Bill was one of great magnitude. It came before the House after a series of Bills dealing with the same great question had been brought before Parliament under different Ministries. In no previous instance had a great public Bill, certainly not a Bill of this nature, been referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament. He would not dwell on the magnitude of the question, but he did wish to remind the Committee that never before had a Bill of that nature been sent to a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament, and never before had a Committee of the character which had dealt with this Bill dealt with it in the manner in which this Committee had dealt with it. In the special Report of the Committee reference was made to the third schedule, which was vital to the measure, because it raised the point as to whether the authority should be practically a Water Board or not. The Committee went through this schedule and made various Amendments in it; but on arriving at a decision the Chairman refrained from putting the question that the schedule stand part of the Bill, adopting the course of putting the question in the form that the schedule be disagreed with. That surely was an abnormal course to take.

*THE CHAIRMAN: This Committee is not a Court of Appeal from the decision of another Committee. In fact, we have no right to review the proceedings of another Committee, even of this House, still less of a Joint Committee upon the Motion to report progress.

CAPTAIN NORTON: My object in bringing this to the notice of the Committee was to show strong reasons for this Motion to report progress, one of

those strong reasons being that the Committee whose proceedings we are about to review dealt with the Bill in a manner in which no previous Committee has ever acted.

***THE CHAIRMAN:** The hon. and gallant Gentleman is asking this Committee to review the proceedings of another Committee. It cannot do that on this Motion.

CAPTAIN NORTON said his object was not to review the decisions of the Joint Committee, but to show the strong reasons which existed for reporting progress. Within the last hour they had had circulated a volume containing 636 pages of evidence, which had been taken by the Joint Committee on the London Water Bill. Had this been an ordinary Bill sent to an ordinary Committee and dealt with in the ordinary way, the cause of complaint might not have been so great. But this was a most unusual case, and yet a vast volume of evidence was only placed in their hands just as they were called upon to discuss a measure of great magnitude. Was it fair to the House of Commons? Was it not, indeed, an insult to the Committee to ask them to deal with a great measure of that nature, at a moment when they could only have seen the outside of the book of evidence? Of course, it was possible for the Committee to enter on an academic discussion, but they ought to deal with the Bill from a common sense point of view. It had been gone into by a Committee of experts, who had examined a large number of witnesses; and how could the House properly consider the question before it had digested the evidence given before the Committee? What would be thought of a judge who gave judgment on a case while in total ignorance of the evidence that had been adduced? This was a question which involved numerous sums of money and large business concerns; and, in view of the facts he had stated, he could not think it possible to make out a stronger case for a Motion to report progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Captain Norton.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (*Stirling Burghs*): It appears to me that the claim of my hon. and gallant *Captain Norton.*

friend is one that can hardly be resisted by the Government. I do not say this would not have been a convenient day for considering this Bill in Committee had Members had time to consider the evidence, but we have not even had time to look at this bulky book. When the unusual course was taken of referring this Bill to the Joint Committee, it was done in the first place for the information of this House when it came to consider the Bill. Yet we are not to be allowed even to glance over the evidence before we are called upon to go into the Clauses. I do not see how the Government can resist the Motion. It is not a question of forms of procedure; it is one of common sense, and of respect for the dignity of the Committee, as well as the proper consideration of a great Bill. I challenge the Government to produce a single instance of a great Bill having been brought before the House for consideration before—

MR. WALTER LONG: Can you produce an instance of the opposite kind?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Of plenty of time being given? Certainly. It is done in every case. There has been a considerable amount of tergiversation in the proceedings of this Committee—queer things have been done, and that makes it more necessary to allow time.

MR. WALTER LONG: By whom?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: We cannot go into that now.

MR. WALTER LONG: The right hon. Gentleman alleges that queer things have been done by this Committee. He either goes too far or not far enough. If he says they have been done, I ask by whom.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The proceedings of the Committee certainly require some explanation. There must have been some evidence given before the Committee to lead them to change their minds as they did, and I submit we are entitled to an opportunity to consider this bulky evidence before we are invited to go into the details of this Bill.

MR. WALTER LONG: I regret that the right hon. Gentleman should take

so serious a view of the action of the Government in asking the House to proceed with this Bill today. It is impossible for the Government to alter their decision, as to the correctness of which they have no doubt. The right hon. Gentleman takes an altogether wrong view of the procedure by which Bills of this character are sent to Committees upstairs. It is a matter of common knowledge that the procedure of the Government in respect of this particular Bill is based on the fact that it involves private rights.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : It is a public Bill.

MR. WALTER LONG : I did not say it was not. The usual procedure, as laid down by Sir Erskine May, has been followed, and the Bill was sent upstairs because it affected private rights. If it appears, after the First Reading of a public Bill, that it affects private rights, notice is sent to the Bill Office, and it is sent to a Committee upstairs. And as to the contention that it is impossible for this Committee to judge of the facts until they have considered the evidence, I am surprised at such a statement coming from the right hon. Gentleman. The inquiry was held in the most public manner, the proceedings were published in the newspapers, the facts are notorious, and I will undertake to say that when the present Motion is disposed of, hon. Gentlemen opposite will have no difficulty whatever in making long speeches and showing that their knowledge of the facts is absolutely complete. It is not necessary, then, that we should wait until these 600 pages of evidence have been examined. The volume was ready for hon. Members yesterday.

CAPTAIN NORTON : A certain number of copies may have been in the Bill Office, but it is not every Member who was aware of the fact.

MR. WALTER LONG : 200 copies were there, and could have been obtained by anybody who desired to study the evidence. The facts connected with the London water question are perfectly well known to Gentlemen both inside

and outside this House. They have been frequently debated, and the London County Council, which has recently issued a report on the subject, evidently did not find any difficulty in reviewing what passed in the Committee. I hope this Committee will support the Government, and will not continue this fruitless debate.

(12.30.) MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.) : The question at issue is one not of precedent, but of common sense, and I doubt whether there is any precedent for the course adopted by the Government with regard to a Bill of this importance and magnitude. Why did the right hon. Gentleman quote Sir Erskine May ?

MR. WALTER LONG : Simply to give the Rule under which this Bill was sent to the Committee.

MR. ASQUITH : But this is an unprecedented measure. It is perfectly true that when a public Bill affects private interests it is right and customary to send it to a Select Committee in order that those private interests may be adequately safeguarded. That is the reason the London Water Bill was sent to a Joint Committee of both Houses. But the question of private rights is not the only question which occupied the attention of the Joint Committee. It is well known that the Joint Committee spent a considerable amount of time over a question which had nothing to do with private right, and displayed an enormous vacillation and fluctuation of opinion with respect to it—namely, the constitution of the new Water Board ; and it is necessary that the House should know the evidence which so influenced the Joint Committee before it proceeds to the investigation of the Bill. I think the Government would be well advised, with a view to facilitate the future proceedings of the Bill, to agree to the Motion, which is neither obstructive nor unreasonable.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said he would be the last man in the House to impute motives of obstruction to the Leader of the Opposition, but when the right hon Gentleman spoke of the reasonableness of the Motion they surely were entitled to examine the ground on

which it was pressed. No doubt a plausible ground had been advanced for reporting progress. He had not even received the Blue-book containing the evidence of the Joint Committee, and, looking at it from a distance across the floor of the House, he was rather alarmed at its bulky appearance. But that was no reason for postponing the consideration of the Bill. And why? The Leader of the Opposition had complained of what he called the queer conduct of the Committee upstairs, and the right hon Gentleman the Member for East Fife had said it had exhibited much vacillation by changing its mind. He admitted all that, but, after all, the question on which the vacillation of the Committee had nothing whatever to do, was the first Clause of the Bill, which was that a Water Board be established, and the matter it did relate to would not be reached, probably, for a week or a fortnight. The evidence was not in any way relevant to the questions which would be discussed that afternoon.

*MR. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) said he certainly could not see anything unreasonable in the Motion, and he thought the House had been treated with regard to this Bill in a very unreasonable way. How could they be expected to discuss this important Bill without first having time to consider the evidence? What had been the course pursued with regard to that question? The Government first appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the London water supply, which, having sat for two years, issued a unanimous Report. As he had sat upon that Commission, he could say that the eight members, who began by differing from one another, were brought to a common agreement by the force of the evidence that had been laid before them. But the Report of that Royal Commission was thrown into the waste-paper basket by the Government, and its recommendations were disregarded in the Bill, which was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses, who, by two to one, agreed with the recommendations of the Commission. He wanted this Bill to pass, but in a reasonable shape. He thought they were entitled to know what the evidence was which induced the Committee, in the first place, to confirm the recommendations of the Royal Commission, and then to change their minds.

Mr. Cohen.

Did or did not the evidence confirm the findings of the Royal Commission—a body which sat for two years, while the Joint Committee's inquiry only lasted about six weeks? Was it reasonable to ask the House to confirm the Report of the Committee without reading the evidence on which the Report was based? He protested against being asked to proceed with the consideration of the Bill until he had the opportunity of considering the evidence which had induced the Joint Committee to come to their last conclusion. He would remind the Committee that this matter had been fought out at the cost of the ratepayers of London, and that great expense had been incurred in the two inquiries. Could anything be more unreasonable, then, than the attitude of the Government?

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNTER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said that if the proceedings of the Joint Committee had been limited to matters which came within private Bill procedure, the proposal of the Government to proceed with the Bill that day would have been reasonable; but they were by no means so limited. The Committee had to consider a great question of policy, and the results of their deliberations were somewhat obscure. Some hon. Members on his side of the House desired to see the much-versed London water question settled once for all, and on a reasonable basis; and, while they approved many of the provisions of the Bill, there were others on which they desired to make their voices heard with a view to securing some alteration. He could not with reason support the Government in their decision to proceed with the Bill that day in face of the fact that the Blue-book—one of the most voluminous he had ever seen—contained some most valuable evidence, which might influence hon. Members as to the view they took of the proper constitution of the Water Board. It was with great reluctance that he found himself compelled to support the Motion made on the other side of the House, but he felt bound to do so in the interest of the Bill.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) thought that after what had fallen from their own supporters the Government should

have no hesitation in accepting this Motion to report progress. The hon. Member for East Islington had admitted that he had not seen the evidence at all, and in his own case he had only had possession of it for two hours. He was sorry he missed the statement of the First Lord on the previous day that it would be shortly circulated, and he submitted that by the hurried circulation of the Blue-book the Government had admitted that a study of it was essential to the deliberations of the Committee. Why, if it were not necessary, had the Government taken so much trouble to place the evidence in the hands of hon. Members?

MR. WALTER LONG: It does not rest with the Government to decide how the evidence shall be produced.

MR. LOUGH said the Government had certainly taken care that the evidence was circulated before hon. Members were called upon to consider the Bill in Committee, but at the same time had not given them time to read it. He believed the evidence was not even indexed. The Government would lose no time by giving way on this question. There was plenty of other business on the Paper which could be proceeded with with advantage, and if they took the reasonable course now proposed they would make much better progress with the Bill on future occasions.

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) joined in the protest against the way in which the House was being treated. He himself was placed in a position of the greatest possible inconvenience by being suddenly supplied with a Blue-book so heavy that he could hardly carry it into the House. Hon. Members who took an interest in the water question might perhaps be familiar with the main facts of the case, but in addition to the main facts there was an immense mass of important detail which required the exercise of nice judgment, seeing that millions of money were involved. He had carefully studied the Report of the Royal Commission, and he had formed an opinion adverse to the composition of the Board as proposed by the Government, but if he had an opportunity of studying the Blue-book he might be induced to

change his mind on the matter. There was a great deal of evidence dealing with that point which was raised by the first Clause, and unless he was afforded an opportunity of examining it he would find great difficulty in pronouncing a fair judgment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill was one of the most extraordinary he had ever listened to, for he said it was quite unnecessary for hon. Members to have an opportunity of looking at the Blue-book which had been placed in their hands.

MR. WALTER LONG: Those were not my words.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that, at any rate, was the impression left on his mind. Had the right hon. Gentleman himself read it?

MR. WALTER LONG: I took the trouble to see the evidence each day as it was taken.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: How?

MR. WALTER LONG: The evidence is printed daily. I never had any difficulty in getting it.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Really, it gets worse and worse. This particular Committee was appointed to consider the whole question of the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman opposite said the Bill was referred to the Committee upstairs for the consideration of certain private rights. The House did not send the Bill to an ordinary Private Bill Committee, in order that the whole Bill might be thoroughly threshed out by a Joint Committee. The Government had in the Committee a majority of seven to three, but the evidence convinced the Committee that some of the proposals of the Government were unworkable. Surely, therefore, the House ought to be made acquainted with that evidence before it considered the Bill. It was not in a position to discuss the first Clause without having the full evidence before it. The right hon. Gentleman, with some heat, complained when the Leader of the Opposition said queer things had been done by the Joint Committee.

MR. WALTER LONG: I asked by whom.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: They were done by the representative of the Government, the Chairman.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentleman is not entitled to cast reflections on the Chairman of the Committee.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he had no desire to cast any reflections on anyone. What they wanted to do was to contest the Report of the Committee, and he therefore submitted that they ought not to be expected to go on with the Bill at this stage until they had had an opportunity of digesting the evidence.

(1.0.) MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said the hon. Member for East Islington had said that they were not likely to reach a part of the Bill that day which involved consideration of the evidence in the Blue-book. Had he seen the Amendments?

MR. COHEN: Yes.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said the hon. Member must, then, have known that a most essential question—the constitution of the Water Board—was raised on the first Clause, and that on page 13 of the Amendment.

MR. COHEN: But we cannot expect to reach that point to day.

MR. CORRIE GRANT: That is a matter of prophesy. Amendments may be ruled out of order. The President of the Local Government Board had informed the Committee that he read the evidence as it went on. But had hon. Members generally the same opportunities that he had for doing so?

MR. WALTER LONG: Certainly.

MR. CORRIE GRANT: How could it be so? Let the Committee consider whether that was so. The evidence was printed at the expense of the parties concerned, and was in the possession of the Parliamentary agents, and they

would not furnish a copy unless the applicant paid his share of the shorthand notes. This meant that hon. Members must pay five or ten guineas a day to get the evidence as it went on. That disposed altogether of the contention that all of them had the same opportunity of seeing the evidence as the right hon. Gentleman, and the position was this, that he, having read the evidence as it went on, could be citing passages against them from that overwhelming volume, which they had had no opportunity of reading, and which was without any index. He only got his copy of the evidence in the Vote Office a few minutes before, and then there were only three copies there. That was the right hon. Gentleman's idea of fairness in debate. He said the Government did not concern themselves about getting the evidence distributed; but they ought to have concerned themselves. The Blue-book was put into the hands of the printers on June 17th. Any of the great London printers could easily have got the book into the hands of anybody willing to pay for it within one week from the time of receiving it. Not one of the grounds urged by the right hon. Gentleman for resisting the Motion was a good ground, and on the other hand the right hon. Gentleman could not adopt a more suicidal policy—so far as his Bill was concerned—than one of insisting on now going on with the debate. He would find that the best and easiest course was to give hon. Members an opportunity of studying the evidence before going on with the debate.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) thought that the Government would be well advised to accept the Motion. There had hitherto been a general agreement on the part of Members to make the best possible measure out of the very worst possible Bill, and if that temper was to continue to prevail, as he hoped it might, they ought only to conduct their final discussions with knowledge of the Blue-book, and some regard to the evidence. If the right hon. Gentleman wanted to get the Bill through within something of a week, he should adjourn the discussion now and go on with the Butterine Bill, which would add to smoothness and harmony, or take

some other small and uncontentious measure. Injustice would otherwise be done to the interests concerned. He was specially favoured as a member of the Parliamentary Committee of the County Council in having read the evidence, but it had not been distributed to members of the County Council generally, or to Members of that House, as was proved by the innocent ignorance of the hon. Member for East Islington. On the ground that Members had not sufficient knowledge of the evidence upon which the Committee arrived at their decision, he hoped the Motion would be agreed to. It was but fair to the representatives of the eight water companies that they should have before them a summary of the proceedings, and still more important was it that the local bodies who found themselves suddenly incorporated into the proposed water authority should have time to consider the position and express their opinions. The County Council, the City Corporation, the Thames Conservancy, and the seventy-seven authorities with which the Bill dealt, were suddenly called upon to give a decision on insufficient knowledge, and he was himself very desirous to fathom the reasons which had induced a sudden change of opinion on the Committee in reference to the inclusion of Borough Councils on the Water Board. He wanted to get at the reasons which caused that wonderful and startling change. He did not wish to be unfair to the Joint Committee, and he was not disposed to prejudge the reasons which induced an hon. Gentleman like the Member for North-West Manchester to change attitude on this important question. Hence he wanted to read the evidence. Then again, they ought to have the views of the Borough Councils as to whether they willingly consented to form part of the authority under the Bill. The Council of the borough of Limehouse had as good a right to express their views as any other body, and he said that despite the uninformed smile of the hon. Member for that division. He had never been in favour of factious opposition on any Bill, but if ever there was justification for obstructing a policy recommended by the Government, it was the present, when they were asked to proceed with the consideration of a Bill involving £40,000,000 or

£50,000,000, affecting some 474 miles of territory and seventy-seven authorities, without being allowed first to read the evidence relating to the subject. If the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill persisted in this attitude he would lay himself open to the charge of having been driven to do so by the water companies. It would be far better for him to let the Bill go over for three or four days, so that some of them, instead of wasting time at golf, might spend the week end in digesting the evidence and in ascertaining what was responsible for the chameleon-like attitude of the Joint Committee.

MR. HARRYSAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) said he had been accused of possessing an uninformed smile, but he rose for the purpose of making a practical suggestion. Those Members who knew the pertinacity of the London County Council fully expected that there would once more be a long discussion of the question whether the Council should be the water authority, a question that was ruled out of order in the Committee on the ground that the point had been settled by the Second Reading debate. Any one who followed the proceedings in Committee would know that at first it declined to take evidence on that point, but when the Members reopened the consideration of it and took evidence they changed their minds.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) thought the contention of the last speaker constituted a good reason in favour of the present Motion. Members desired to become acquainted with the evidence which induced the Joint Committee to change its mind. The suggestion to report progress to enable them to master the reasons which influenced the Committee was a most reasonable one. Were they, or were they not, a deliberative assembly? If they were to deliberate that Bill, they could only do so properly on the strength of the evidence presented to the Committee. He, for one, had not seen that evidence, and consequently, in the interest of fair play and of the honour and dignity of the House, he asked the Government to accede to the Motion to report progress.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) added his appeal in favour of adjourning

proceedings, and reminded the President of the Local Government Board that an assurance had been given that the House should have full and deliberate opportunity for considering the Report of the Joint Committee. It should be remembered that on the occasion of the Second Reading a notice was made from the Front Opposition Bench to refer the Bill to a Select Committee of the House. He then asked if hon. Members would sacrifice their right to go into details if they assented to the Government proposal to send the Bill to a Joint Committee, and he was assured by both the President and the Secretary of the Local Government Board that they would have the fullest opportunity of considering the Bill in all its details. On the strength of the above assurance he, almost alone on those Benches, voted for the Joint Committee, and the reward he got for supporting was that he was asked to consider the Bill at a time when he had not seen the Blue-book, and did not therefore know what the evidence was like. It was impossible to judge of what took place on the Committee from the reports in the Press. They were, no doubt, admirable descriptions, but they were too brief, and might be entirely distorted versions. So far as he could gather, the Cabinet, being furious at the decision of the Committee, hustled the Committee, and now wanted to hustle the House of Commons.

*SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) said that the Committee was in danger of losing sight of the important consideration involved in the reference of this Bill to the Joint Committee, namely, whether it was referred to the Committee principally as a private Bill or as a public Bill. It seemed clear that although evidence was given incidentally on some leading points of policy, it was chiefly in the nature of a reference of a private Bill, and was by no means an uncommon occurrence in connection with an important measure. It was clear, however, that the evidence was under the control of the Parliamentary Agents, and it would be setting a most dangerous precedent to decide not to proceed with the Bill owing to the fact that the evidence under the control of the Parliamentary Agents had been delayed in publication. It appeared to him that what they ought to consider in regard to this Bill was not so much the evidence given before the Committee as the evidence given before the Royal Commission. He considered that to delay the progress of the Bill because during the discussion useful facts might be brought out from the evidence laid before the Committee, though it might not be actual obstruction, would have the effect of obstruction.

(1.30.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 86; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 285.) (1.40.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouce., Stroud)
Aulton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herb't Henry
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Brown, Geo. M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Edwards, Frank

Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Fenwick, Charles
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Dav. Brynmor (Swansea)
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Leamy, Edmund
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lang, Sir John
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McGovern, T.
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William

Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Mooney, John J.
Moulton, John Fletcher
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. Jno. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipp'rary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfr.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)

Dr. Macnamara.

Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Spencer, Rt. Hn. C.R. (N'thants
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan., E.

Thomas, J. A. (Glamor. Gower
 Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tully, Jasper
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)

Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Hud'ersf'd
 Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone
 and Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Aug'tas H'nry Eden
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John Geo. Alexander
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derb'shire
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
 Chapman, Edward
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Denny, Colonel
 Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
 Doughy, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flower, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred'k

Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St. Ed.
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Grettton, John
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Mid'x
 Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
 Hatch, Ernest Fred'k George
 Heath, James (Staffords. N. W.)
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Horner, Frederick William
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, J. (Midd. Tottenham)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Knowles, Lees
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Jos'ph (Monm'th
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Maxwell, WJH (Dumfriesshire
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian

Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne-
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson.
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Smith, H.C. (North'mb. Tyneside
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hed'ey
 Thompson, Dr. E.C. (Monagh'u, N
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell. (Bir.
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wolf, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

(2.10.) MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he wished to draw the attention of the President of the Local Government Board to the question of postponing this Clause. Clause 1 raised the question of the number of this Board, and until the Committee was in possession of the evidence, as given before the Joint-Committee, they were not in a position to discuss this Clause. Upon the Second Reading of this Bill, the President of the Local Government Board stated that in regard to the question of the constitution of the Board he had obtained the advice of an expert among experts who agreed with him that seventy-three should be the number. He wanted to know the

name of the expert by whom the right hon. Gentleman was guided in adopting the particular constitution laid down in the Bill. He would also like to know if this expert among experts gave evidence before the Joint Committee, and, if so, would the right hon. Gentleman kindly give his name, because he was very anxious to see what was the nature of the evidence upon which this recommendation was founded.

MR. WALTER LONG: Yes, he did give evidence. His name is Mr. Perrin, the Water Examiner to the Local Government Board.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he they thought were entitled to postpone this Clause in order to see upon what basis this proposal was founded. He was aware that there was evidence upon the other side from experts in Glasgow, Liverpool, and Edinburgh, from witnesses occupied in the carrying out of those great municipal water undertakings, but he did not now wish to detain the Committee with the evidence given by those gentlemen. Substantially, these gentlemen, who were well known experts, possessing a minute knowledge of this question, had declared unanimously and emphatically against the size of the proposed authority. His point was that they were not in a position to deal with this Clause at the present moment. Even with regard to the Amendments on the Paper, they were not in a position to discuss the matter properly. He should also like to urge, as another reason—if it were in order—the action of the Chairman of the Joint Committee, and the way in which the Report of that Committee had, as a consequence, come down to the House. He did not wish to infringe the ruling of the Chair, and he did not know whether he would be in order in discussing the mode in which the procedure on that Committee had been carried out.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If it will assist the hon. Member, I may point out that the general principle is this: if the hon. Member is going to suggest that the question was not put in a proper way by the Chairman of that Committee, I may say that I do not think this is a court of appeal from that Committee. No discussion will be permitted with regard to the conduct of the Chairman of that Committee upon a Motion to postpone a clause.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not wish to attack the Chairman of the Joint Committee as such. He would like to draw attention to an incident which occurred in this House the other day. There was brought before the House a Railway Bill, which appeared to him to include issues which were practically on all fours with this Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That was upon a definite Instruction, instructing the Committee to take a particular course, and therefore it was relevant to say

that on a former occasion the Committee had not taken the desirable course. We are now upon a motion to postpone Clause 1, and the objections which I understand the hon. Member takes to the decision of the Committee refer to the schedule. Obviously, when we are discussing a Motion to postpone the first clause, I do not see how the matter which the hon. Member desires to discuss can be relevant. The hon. Member, by his Motion to postpone this clause, prevents the Committee discussing the very matter which he wishes to discuss.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that in consequence of that ruling he should not discuss the action of the Chairman of the Joint Committee, which he considered a matter of great importance as affecting the procedure of Committees; but he urged again the postponement of the clause, on the ground that, until the Committee were acquainted with the evidence laid before the Joint Committee, they could not properly discuss the Amendments to the clause.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 be postponed."—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

MR. WALTER LONG: I desire to say that it is impossible for the Government to assent to the Motion moved by my hon. friend the Member for Poplar, and I am rather surprised at the grounds upon which he has made this Motion. The hon. Member asks me upon what evidence I base the proposal which I ventured to put before the House when I introduced this Bill. The number inserted in the Bill was considered necessary to perform the work which had to be done. But the hon. Member has carried my argument a great deal further than that, for he has endeavoured to show the Committee that upon this one witness, Mr. Perrin, I have based and founded the whole Bill. The reference which the hon. Member opposite made to my speech deals solely with the question of Boards and the work that is to be done by the new Board. Upon that occasion I quoted Mr. Perrin, the Water Examiner to the Local Government Board, as the one man who has greater and more

detailed knowledge of the water area and the needs of Water London, and the difficulties likely to arise, than any other man of my acquaintance. He is an expert, and was rightly described by me as an expert among experts. His opinion was very strong upon the point that it would be impossible for the work of Water London to be done properly unless the Board was big enough to provide six, seven, or eight Committees. The hon. Gentleman opposite and the hon. Member for North West Wiltshire had both placed Amendments on the Paper proposing alternative bodies for the control of the London water supply, but I cannot see how it is possible for them to make themselves responsible for proposals of this kind, which would altogether change this Bill, unless they are prepared to produce some very strong arguments in support of that course. If hon. Members really believe that they cannot go on with this Bill until they have all this evidence before them, why have they put Amendments on the Paper? Why have they made proposals to alter the constitution of this Board? Is it that they have made themselves responsible for proposals which they were not prepared to defend until they had read the evidence? I must now turn to the main contention of the hon. Member opposite. I am aware that this Bill deals with more millions of money than many private Bills which come before Parliament, but, after all, the Bill which brought into existence the Manchester Ship Canal involved more money. But I do not think that it lies with hon. Gentlemen opposite to suggest that this Bill is to be judged by the amount of money which is affected by it. I listened to the speech of the late Home Secretary upon this question with profound amazement. The right hon. Gentleman, after all his experience of Parliament, stated that the sole reason why this Bill was sent to a Committee upstairs was because it was an important Bill. That description of our procedure is absolutely incorrect, because the sole reason was that it was compulsory that it should go to a Committee under the Rule governing Bills which affect private interests. If it had not been for the

private interests affected by this Bill, it would never have gone to a Committee upstairs, and it would have been considered by a Committee of the Whole House or a Standing Committee, and the Select Committee would not have been necessary and would not have been availed of by the Government had not the Rules of Parliament made it obligatory. As a public Bill for which the Government is responsible, which partakes of the private Bill in some respects, it had to be sent to this Committee.

MR. CORRIE GRANT: Why was the Committee not limited to dealing with private interests?

MR. WALTER LONG: Surely the hon. Member knows that that would be contrary to our practice, for we never limit the consideration of Bills to private interests. A Bill is sent to a Select Committee in order that the private interests affected may be defended by counsel, and through the medium of evidence given by witnesses. I speak with more certainty on this matter because I have sat as a member of one of those large Committees. The hon. Gentleman opposite disagrees with the action of the Joint Committee, and I have my own view about their action. Nevertheless, I accept their verdict, and I do not attempt to cavil with any of the decisions they have arrived at. There is no doubt that the whole Bill is before the Committee when once it is referred to them. If the House declines to proceed with a measure until the evidence taken upon it is before it, it will create an absolutely new precedent with regard to private Bill procedure. I have been at some pains to examine this question very carefully, and, so far as I know, there is no precedent in which the further stages of a measure have been postponed until the evidence has been produced. Hon. Members say they want the evidence, but I submit that all that it is necessary to know in connection with this measure is in the possession of those interested in the London Water question. The hon. Member for Battersea wants more than this, for he desired that this Bill, in its amended form, should be referred to the

County Councils, the Borough Councils, and the Urban District Councils concerned, in order that the Committee may know their opinions upon the change. If we are to wait until all this evidence has been digested and referred to the local authorities, there will be no prospect of this Bill being carried into law this session. I am assured that not only can any outsider obtain a copy of the evidence taken before a Committee every day at a trifling cost, but that any Member of Parliament can get it for nothing. ["No, no!"] That, at any rate, is the information which reaches me from a trustworthy source.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The right hon. Gentleman admitted my argument upon that point.

MR. WALTER LONG: That is not so. The hon. Gentleman was dealing with the unsatisfactory way in which evidence was given before this Committee, and he said that evidence ought to be available for Members of this House. I entirely concur with hon. Members' strictures on both sides of the House in regard to the system of producing evidence. The hon. Member said the evidence was difficult to obtain, and that it ought to be circulated with the Votes in the same way as information connected with any other measure. The people interested in the Water question can obtain all this evidence without any cost to themselves at all, and with very little trouble, and, therefore, I cannot see that it would be right or just to postpone this clause until the evidence is in the hands of Members, because that would involve a great deal of delay. Therefore, I must ask the Committee to proceed with the consideration of this clause as it stands.

(240.) MR. LOUGH said he did not wish to submit any of those larger arguments which had been dealt with by the hon. Member who moved the Amendment. Anyone who looked impartially at the Bill would see that it would be greatly to the convenience of the Committee if Clause 1 were postponed. The Bill was divided into nine parts, and Clause 1 was in itself a complete part.

Mr. Walter Long.

The other eight parts defined the work that was to be done, and he contended that the Committee should be thoroughly aware of the work that was to be done before it fixed the constitution of the body by which that work was to be performed. If the Clause merely provided that a Board should be established, and allowed the number to be fixed later on then it might be admitted, but it did not do this, for it defined exactly the number of the Board. How was the Committee to decide this question without having clearly before it the nature of the work which the Board had to perform. The hon. Member for Poplar quoted the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill with reference to the work which this new Board would have to do. The right hon. Gentleman said it would have to do the work of eight Boards of directors composed of some ninety members. How did the Committee know whether this work might not be done as well with the same number of gentlemen as at present managed one company. It was very probable that the increase in the size of the work would not make it necessary to have a larger Board at all, and the House ought to know exactly the details of the work to be done before the constitution of the Board was decided upon. To deal with this question before they had full information would be one of the most risky proceedings the Committee ever undertook. He put it to the right hon. Gentleman that it would be a convenient thing to take up at once Section 2 or Section 3 and some of the other Clauses, because then the Committee would be in a better position to decide as to the constitution of the Board. They were now proposing to settle in Clause 1 the constitution of this body without knowing anything of these great questions.

*MR. MELLOR pointed out, as a proof that the request for postponement of the Clause was not unreasonable, that both the Commission and the Committee which had considered the subject matter of this Bill at great length had reserved the consideration of the composition of the governing body till the last. He thought the course suggested by the Amendment was the most reasonable and business-like way

of dealing with this question, and if the right hon. Gentleman would fairly consider the reasons that were influencing the Opposition upon this point he would find the passage of this Bill a great deal easier, and his difficulties far less, as the Bill proceeded. He was not hostile at all to the right hon. Gentleman's desire, for his object was the same. He wished to see this important matter settled and this great question got out of the way, but he also wanted to see justice done to the rate-payers of London. That that was a very important matter must be obvious to every hon. Member. Upon the Commission they had to consider, amongst other things, what would be the probable growth of London in the near future, and they came to the conclusion that Water London would increase to something like 12,000,000 people. The interests of these people ought to be their first consideration. At all events, they ought to ascertain what the duties of this new body would be first of all, because until they knew exactly what duties they were going to entrust to this Board it was idle to attempt to settle what its composition should be; the duties imposed upon it would determine whether that body should be of a certain size and what powers it should have. He thought the President of the Local Government Board had rather misunderstood the argument of his right hon. friend the Member for East Fife. Although this was a public Bill it was also a *quasi-private* Bill, for it was a public Bill which affected certain private rights. Therefore, the ordinary course would be, according to the practice of the House, to send the Bill to a Committee upstairs. What the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife complained of was that this Bill was sent upstairs in order to have those private rights considered, but when the Committee got the Bill before them they inquired into the whole subject at large and did more to ascertain the public rights than the private rights.

MR. WALTER LONG: What I dealt with was the definite statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife that the sole reason why this Bill was sent to the Committee upstairs was because of its importance.

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*MR. MELLOR thought the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife ought to be taken as a whole. He understood the President of the Local Government Board to state that hon. Members wished to wait for the evidence in order to find arguments to support the Amendment which they had put down, and go on a sort of roving commission in order to find something to support their views. That was not what his hon. friends and himself were doing, for they had long ago arrived at certain conclusions with regard to this matter. The reason why they desired time to study the evidence was that they were in favour of a much smaller governing body, and it was their belief that when the evidence was read and compared with what had been given before the Royal Commission the weight of opinion would be found to be conclusively against the Government proposal. Therefore, he thought it was his duty to support the Motion of his hon. friend.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER said he should not support the postponement of this Clause, because he had offered his protest upon the former Motion to report progress, and he did not wish to take up a captious attitude upon the Bill. There was a great deal in Clause 1 with which he was in thorough agreement, and it was only upon certain points that he joined issue. But, as he had been challenged for putting down an Amendment, he wished to explain that his reasons for putting it down without tying himself absolutely to its terms were to show his disagreement with the Government as to the number of the governing body, which he considered excessive, and as to the mode of selection. He had reason to believe that the evidence, which he had not had an opportunity of reading, would fortify him in his views. He did not think this proposal would produce a good governing body for the management of the London water supply. He was not prepared to support the postponement of the Clause, because the House had already decided by a majority that they should not report progress now.

DR. MACNAMARA said that, like the hon. Member for North West Wiltshire, he did not approach the consideration

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of this question in any sort of captious attitude. He thought, however, that the Committee ought to be afforded an opportunity of considering the evidence upon which the Joint Committee made this recommendation. Clause 1 proposed that the Water Board should consist of seventy-three members, but he would remind the Committee that when the Bill came first before the House the general opinion was that a governing body of sixty-seven Members was too large. The President and the Secretary of the Local Government Board were, he thought, the only members who did not think the governing body should be smaller. The Bill, as it now stood, proposed a larger body of seventy-three members. The Committee ought to have an opportunity of discussing what evidence there was to justify this change. He had just secured the Blue-book, and, hastily searching for any evidence on this subject, the first thing he found was the declaration of Mr. George Frederick Deacon, who said of the proposed Water Board of sixty-seven members—

“ I think it is a great deal too large, and that it would be unwieldy in practice.”

Being asked whether he would prefer a Committee of moderate size, he further said that the number should be thirty members at the outside. There was no evidence in favour of a body of seventy-three members, but there was an evident desire to arrive at a reasonable compromise of a smaller body of representatives on a county basis. The scheme of the hon. Member for North West Wiltshire was the scheme which they must ultimately come to.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is hardly now giving reasons for postponing this Clause.

DR. MACNAMARA suggested that a working compromise of the representation on a county basis would be the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty, and if the Government would consult those who knew most about these matters he felt sure that they would come to that conclusion. For these reasons he was bound to support the postponement of this Clause.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said he was one of those unfortunate persons who happened to be a water

company director. He looked upon this question from two points of view. In the first place, London had made up its mind to buy these water undertakings, and he was anxious that they should do so; and in the second place, he was extremely anxious as a director that this Bill, or some other Bill with this object, should go through as soon as possible. With a director's experience he looked at the proposed Board as unmanageably large, and believed it would prove unwieldy and very expensive to ratepayers, and he should be very glad to see its size reduced. He wished to point out, however, that they would do no good by postponing it, and perhaps they would be able to amend it. They might begin with the present proposal and get this Bill through. He should be very sorry to be a party to supporting the postponement of this Clause, although he reserved to himself the right to criticise the enormous size of the Board, because he was quite sure that the most efficient management would be by a small paid Board doing the work as directors did it; otherwise there was fear that the management would fall into the hands of permanent officials.

(3.5.) MR. JOHN BURNS said the hon. Member who had just spoken had unconsciously given good reason for postponement. If the Board was likely to prove unwieldy, extravagant, and disadvantageous to the ratepayers, then Members should have full opportunity of access to evidence before they undertook the responsibility of a decision that might entail such consequences. By reading the evidence and getting at the facts, hon. Members might persuade the Government at a later stage to reduce the size of this body from the unwieldy and unbusiness-like number of seventy-three down to thirty or forty, as had been suggested by some hon. Members who had already spoken. If hon. Members had had this evidence a week ago, it would have been unnecessary to waste the time of the Committee discussing the postponement, and this delay had arisen in consequence of the inefficient manner in which this Bill had been put before the House. He would appeal even now to the President of the Local Government Board to postpone Clause 1,

Dr. Macnamara.

and allow them to proceed with less contentious Clauses. The hon. Member for Exeter, whom he had always regarded as a very clear-headed man, was a Member of the Joint Committee which decided that the number of this body should be forty, by a majority of two to one, and another Committee, by an equality of votes, had decided in favour of seventy-three. He did not know what evidence had produced this change, but he supposed that the reasons must be contained in this voluminous Blue-book. They must have been very strong and cogent reasons, urged in the interests of the water companies and the ratepayers; and therefore he wished to have an opportunity of knowing what those reasons were. If they were not found to be in the interests of the ratepayers, then they had no right to allow them. A grave injustice might be inflicted upon the water companies by this heterogeneous body, with no knowledge of London's water supply, and who could not even hope to manage the water concerns of London as well as the eight Boards had hitherto done. Where was the definite demand from the Corporation of London to be included in the heterogeneous mob collected from the great area of Water London? The City Corporation had never yet given an expression of opinion in favour of being included, and, disagreeing as they did on the London County Council with the City Corporation upon some subjects, he admitted that they had done great service upon the Water question, and he would like to know whether the City Corporation were satisfied that this body should consist of seventy-three members. He wished the City Corporation to have time to consider this question. The vast sum of money required to purchase these undertakings would have to be provided by the London County Council, and therefore they ought to know what was going to be the character of the body to which they were going to entrust the spending of the money. He hoped the Government would be wise enough not to depart from the original suggestion to make the number forty. Then there were those blessed Borough Councils. Where, outside a drawing-room meeting of metropolitan Mayors, was there any mandate from the Borough Councils for

representation? The proposal in this Clause was to have seventy-three men gathered from all ends of an area of 440 square miles. The Government had got no mandate whatever from the Borough Councils for representation on this body; on the contrary, his own Borough Council specifically declined to have anything to do with it. [An HON. MEMBER: Oh, oh!] He ventured to say that his Borough Council knew as much about the subject as the City of Westminster Council, which painted its lamp posts khaki colour and left its streets in such a bad condition. He asked the President of the Local Government Board where was the mandate of the Borough Councils? Some of the Borough Councils liked the Bill and some did not, but none of them had expressed a definite wish to be part of a body of seventy-three. For these reasons he supported the Motion for the postponement of Clause 1. He wanted this to be the last time the House of Commons would have to consider a London Water Bill, but it would not be the last time if the President of the Local Government Board, who had experience enough to know better and to act more intelligently, allowed this body to be imposed on London without sufficient consideration of the evidence, to which at present they had not had access. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to accept the proposal to postpone the Clause. The Committee could proceed to discuss the less controversial parts of the Bill.

SIR. WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH (Manchester, N.W.) said it appeared to him that the hon. Member for Battersea had rather gone beyond the matter now before the Committee, which was simply that the Clause be postponed. If he were in order, he should like to deal with some matters which had been referred to in regard to the action of the Joint Committee, and more especially in regard to the reasons which ultimately prevailed with the Committee in recommending a Board of seventy-three rather than a Board of sixty-seven. He presumed he should not be in order in pursuing that question. No doubt it would have to come up at a later stage; and, as a member of the Joint

Committee, he should then have an opportunity of showing exactly what had taken place in that Committee. He presumed that they would not be held responsible for the ruling of the Chairman in the Joint Committee; but, with regard to any action that took place in reference to the various propositions put before them, he hoped they would have an opportunity of explaining exactly what had influenced them in coming to the conclusion they did. He was, he thought, entitled to claim the special indulgence of the Committee in this matter, because he rather thought it was on his vote in the Joint Committee that the vacillations which had been commented on had occurred. When the proper time came, he thought he should be able to make a good case for the change of his opinion; but at the moment he would only say that, in his opinion, every member of a Committee upstairs was bound to consider from time to time the decision he would come to on the evidence that was put before him. If evidence was not put before him, he was not in a position, probably, to give as wise, good, and right a decision as he would give if evidence was put before him. He merely indicated that as a defence, if he might say so, of his change of opinion, although he did not think there was any reason why a man honestly should not change his opinion, if there were considerations for doing so, even independently of the evidence, which occurred to him afterwards. At the same time, he did not believe that this Motion was one that ought to be entertained by the Committee. He did not see any reason whatever why this Clause should be postponed. No doubt the Joint Committee adopted the course which they thought best for shortening the inquiry, and dealing with the various points fairly, and they did not follow absolutely the *seriatim* form of the Bill as it stood; but he did not think that question arose here today. The point which had been raised today more than any other was as to the constitution of the Board; but it appeared to him that that would come up in the natural course if they now proceeded with the Clauses as they stood. No doubt there was in the Clause a reference

Sir William Houldsworth.

to the constitution of the Board, but the discussion of that would come more properly under the guidance of the Chairman when the Committee came to consider that part of the Clause. He was bound to admit that a good deal had been said which had impressed him as to the desirability of the Committee's having an opportunity of going through the evidence—he did not say absolutely—before entering upon the small portion of the Bill, that they would be able to deal with today. As a member of the Joint Committee, he was exceedingly anxious that the members of the Committee should have the opportunity of reading the evidence and of seeing the basis upon which they came to their conclusions. He was sure it would be recognised that it was a very complicated and difficult inquiry, involving many considerations—not only considerations of what would be a suitable, practical, and business-like Board, but considerations with respect to representation, and even sentiment, which had to be kept in view. All he had to say at present was, that he had heard no argument to induce him to support the Motion for the postponement of the Clause.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): The hon. Baronet has said that he has heard no argument in favour of the postponement of the Clause, but I think the Committee cannot say that, having heard what the hon. Baronet has said. A more conclusive speech in favour of the postponement of this Clause would be impossible to conceive. He has stated the principles by which he himself has been governed, and I am sure anyone who knows the hon. Baronet will admit that these are sound principles and adopted from the highest motives. What does he say? He says, in effect, that you cannot properly form an opinion on the matter without hearing the evidence. That is exactly the position the Committee is placed in. A more extraordinary proceeding than the present one I have never heard of during the whole of my long experience of the House of Commons. Here is a very important Joint Committee dealing with enormous pecuniary interests which are to affect the population of London in perpetuity, on account of the sum of money to be

raised; and all we know about it is that that Joint Committee, by a majority of nearly two to one, came to one conclusion, and that afterwards, for reasons which the hon. Baronet says he will at some time or other explain, but which he is unable to explain to-day—

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH: I should not have been in order in doing so.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I know; but that does not make any difference to us. It is the very fact that because we cannot, on account of the ruling in respect of order, arrive at the thing which is really essential to the question now before the House, that we wish to take a course which seems so clear and obvious, and the denial of which is so irrational, that it hardly wanted the speech of the hon. Baronet to convince us of that. It is a situation, I venture to say, unprecedented in the House of Commons, that a Bill of this enormous consequence should come down from a Joint Committee which, in regard to a critical point, arrived at a conclusion by a majority of two to one, and afterwards came to another conclusion, and that we should be asked to proceed to consider the point without explanation. I suppose the hon. Baronet, being part of that majority, considered that he had then before him all that was necessary in order to form that judgment.

SIR WILLIAM HOULDSWORTH: Let me explain that one member of the Committee was absent.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Yes, it would be a difficult fraction to calculate, perhaps, but that member who was absent then is present today, I expect. Here we are in the position of having two Members of this House—Members of the highest authority on this matter—who are precluded by the ruling of the Chair from telling us that which is essential. We all know that that is a position in which the House ought not to be placed by the Government. The Government have power to relieve us from this situation. If they assent to the Motion, then they will allow the

House of Commons to have that information which it is essential we should possess for dealing with this matter. The hon. Baronet who has just spoken will make a clean breast of it to us, and tell us exactly what were the motives which induced him to change his opinion. The hon. Member who was absent then will tell us what are his opinions now upon that question. Having two living witnesses before us, we are now in the position of their being muzzled and not allowed to speak. Is it possible to reduce the House of Commons to a more absolute and contemptible impotence? It is an exhibition of what can happen in the House of Commons when dealing with matters of the greatest importance. There is a Blue-book with the whole evidence—and that is delivered at a moment when it is impossible for the House of Commons to make itself acquainted with the contents. It is ridiculous mismanagement that we should be placed in a position in which we are not able to form a judgment on the matter—a judgment which can alone be properly formed after we have the evidence before us. How can we go on this afternoon with this clause? We cannot discuss the clause without considering the constitution of the Board. It is the very essence of the whole thing. If it was not the essence of this matter, why was there such an extraordinary desire on the part of the Government to alter the first decision? That shows how vital this question is to the whole of this Clause. I am bound to say, therefore, that, in refusing this Motion, they are endeavouring to snatch a judgment upon that which is the essential matter in this Clause. That, in my opinion, is to destroy the whole functions of bodies like the Joint Committee, and to treat the House of Commons in a way that it ought not to be treated.

(3.32.) **MR. WALTER LONG:** The right hon. Gentleman says he is consumed with anxiety to hear the evidence of two living witnesses who are present, but that the action of the Government has rendered this impossible. He tells the Committee also that, by the adoption of the Amendment, those hon. Members would become unmuzzled. The adoption of the Amendment would have the certain effect of making it impossible for my two hon.

friends to give the desired information to the House unless at some distant period of time. There are great interests involved in this matter. The water companies do not ask for the championship of hon. Members opposite in postponing the consideration of the Clause. They support the Government in the course we are pursuing. The vast majority of London Members—55 out of 62—are supporting the Government in the course we have adopted; and the local authorities, the majority of the metropolitan boroughs, and the urban and rural districts, are also supporting the Government. It is only those hon. Members who have been opposed to the Government from the beginning who are not prepared to go on with the Clause, because they say they want further information before continuing their attack. I submit that there is nothing extraordinary or improper in the course which the Government has adopted in asking the House to proceed with the consideration of the Clause.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he wished to say a word on this matter from a somewhat different point of view. The argument which the President of the Local Government Board advanced was that the opinion of the London Members on the Opposition side ought not to have any weight whatever in this House, because the great majority of London Members supported the Government. He was not aware that they were elected on this question. They were elected on the question of the war, and on that they had a right to be quoted as evidence of the opinion of London. They were not elected on the question of this Bill on the water supply.

MR. WALTER LONG: I said that the vast majority of hon. Members representing London are supporters of the policy of the Government in this matter, and they are prepared to take the consequences of their action.

SIR WALTER FOSTER said he was equally entitled to say that the last London County Council election was specifically fought on this question, and that a great majority of the Members then elected took a different view from the right hon. Gentleman. If the one argument was good, the other was good. His argument

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was that the County Council was elected specifically on the Water question, while the Gentlemen elected to Parliament were elected on the war cry. He approached this question not from the point of view of a London Member, but as one who had had large experience in connection with such matters in other large centres. It was one of the greatest questions connected with public health which they could consider. There was no question of more urgent and vital importance than that of the water supply, and he quite agreed that it ought to have been dealt with years ago in some way which would have allowed the water supply of London to be in the hands of a single responsible authority. They were approaching this question in the wrong way. They were putting in the forefront this Clause, which dealt with the constitution of the Board, which, in his experience, and he believed in the experience of many others, was not, by its size, the most suitable body to undertake the work. Every speech delivered on the Government side of the House had been a speech in favour of the postponement of the Clause. The whole case for the large and cumbrous Board rested on the 700 pages of evidence in the Blue-book, and it was but reasonable that the House should have an opportunity of studying the question as it was affected by that evidence. He only got the book this morning, and he understood that a large number of Members had not seen it at all. If they were to be treated fairly in the consideration of this great problem, the Clause should be postponed.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston) said the Government, out of respect to themselves and to the House, ought to allow this most contentious portion of the Bill to be postponed until the Members had had time to study the evidence. He was satisfied that even the majority of hon. Members opposite viewed with great surprise the evidence of the Joint Committee whose Report they were now considering. The circumstance which impressed the people most was that the Committee, by a large majority, decided in one way, but that when it met again it was told that the Government disapproved their decision. The Chairman of the Committee then cleared the room; it was

decided that evidence should be taken, and on that evidence the Committee was reported to have reversed its former decision. If there was a thing which would be disgraceful to the House, it would be to find that its Committees were supple to Government pressure; and if there was a thing which would be disgraceful to the Government, it would be that the Government exercised that pressure on Committees representing the House.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not entitled on this Motion to make attacks on the Committee. He is entitled to urge his reasons for postponement.

*MR. MOULTON said if he had been allowed to finish he was going to say it would have been clear that he was guilty of no intention of attacking either the Committee or the Government. He was about to point out that the one justification both of the Committee and of the Government was that the evidence which was called was such as rightly moved the Committee, so that the Committee was not supple, but was simply keeping its mind open, and that the Government was not exercising improper pressure upon the Committee but was asking permission to call evidence upon the point upon which it differed from the Committee. What was the all-important thing to put before the House to save the Government from appearing to have done an improper thing, and to save the Joint Committee from appearing to have been supple to Government pressure? Why it was to permit a careful study of the evidence which was the defence of both. This evidence was contained in a bulky Blue-book. All that was now said was that this contentious Clause dealing with the point upon which the Committee had changed its opinion under these remarkable circumstances, and in a way which could only be defended by the weight of evidence, should be postponed until the House had an opportunity of weighing that evidence. He was not prejudging this question at all. He had no wish to bring in any angry passions at all. He wished to point out to the Government that the position they themselves took up, that the Committee were wise in boldly altering their

decision, made it essential that the Government should be willing, and more than willing, that the House, before it judged of this Clause, should have a full opportunity of studying the evidence.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said the Government might have behind them the support of the bodies referred to by the President of the Local Government Board, but surely the right hon. Gentleman did not mean to maintain that the Committee should decide upon the constitution of the Board first and read the evidence afterwards.

MR. WALTER LONG: I merely stated that the Members of the House representing the people mainly interested in this Bill are sitting on this side and supporting the Government in the matter.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said the London Members were supporting him by their votes, but not by speeches. The Opposition were now attempting to persuade the right hon. Gentleman to take a reasonable view of this matter. Every London Member who had risen to support him had given away his case. The right hon. Gentleman had not a single friend to justify the action he had taken up. The only precedent he could find for the proceedings of the Government was in one of Lewis Carroll's books, "Alice in Wonderland," in which the Queen of Hearts declared that their procedure was "Sentence first—Verdict afterwards." Ever since the famous arbitration of the late Mr. Smith thirty years ago he had been a careful student of the London water question; but he protested that he could not debate the Amendments without any knowledge of what had taken place in the Committee. According to all his experience and information, Members of this House had no inherent right, as was alleged, to have evidence supplied to them from day to day, even on application. He had inquired into the statement of the right hon. Gentleman in order to see what ground there was for it, because it came to him as an absolute surprise. He had failed to find any justification for the statement. He wished the right hon. Gentleman would tell them his authority

for the statement. It was not fair that men who were anxious to come to a reasonable decision should be asked to debate Amendments on one of the most contentious clauses in the Bill without seeing the evidence which induced some Members of the Joint Committee to alter their opinion.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the President of the Local Government Board had stated that he was guided by the expert evidence of Mr. Perrin in regard to the particular constitution laid down in the Bill. He had looked through the evidence of Mr. Perrin, but he could not find a single question or answer affecting the constitution of the Board.

(4.0.) CAPTAIN NORTON said that everything that had been stated in connection with the proposal to postpone Clause 1 had fully justified him in moving to report progress. The hon. Baronet the Member for North-West Manchester, who was in a better position to deal with this question than most of them, made the admission that he had changed his mind when in Committee. He presumed that the hon. Baronet and the majority of the Committee did not change their mind on this most vital point owing to the fact that there was any influence behind them, as had been suggested, for he did not believe that any Member would allow himself to be influenced in that direction. They could only have come to that conclusion because evidence was brought before them to enable them to make up their minds. The hon. Baronet seemed to infer that that did not apply to Clause 1, but that Clause went to the establishment of a Water Board, which was the basis of the whole Bill. Well, if the Committee, composed of experts with a mass of evidence before them, came to the conclusion that the best time to deal with this question was in Part 3 of the Bill, surely the House was entitled to say that they should be in the same position. They should have a right to discuss the nature of the body; and he maintained that the Water Board set up by Clause 1 was an impossible body, and that its constitution was altogether

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wrong. He had a map which showed not only the administrative county of London, but Water London, and Greater London; and he found five or six counties were involved in this question, and it was proposed that one single Committee should deal with it. He found from the evidence from almost every large town in England which had dealt with the water problem a consensus of opinion that London was so large—

* THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is now discussing the merits of the Clause. He must wait.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he was trying to show the reason why they were not now competent to enter into a discussion of this Clause, which dealt with the nature of the Board to be established for the purpose of acquiring by purchase, and of managing and carrying on the undertakings of the companies mentioned in the first Schedule of the Bill, and generally for the purpose of supplying water within the area described in the second Schedule; and the number of members of which the Board should consist. He believed he was in order in dealing with any of these questions which would necessarily come under discussion when the Clause came to be considered. When the matter was first under discussion in the Committee upstairs, they decided by two to one—

* THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is going into the merits of the Clause. He cannot do that until the Amendment is disposed of.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that surely the Chairman would allow him to go as far into the merits of the Clause as other hon. Members had been permitted to do.

* THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is not entitled to repeat arguments already laid before the Committee.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he thought he could claim that he had not said one word which had been previously stated. Might he put this point, that on the question as to what proper authorities should be represented on the Board, whether the London County Council should not have some say?

* THE CHAIRMAN: That will arise in the discussion of the Schedule. I must warn the hon. Member of the Standing Order against repetition.

CAPTAIN NORTON said that the question as to purchase by a public authority was one of those which would come before the constituent members of the Board. The London County Council decided unanimously that there should be purchase by one public body.

* THE CHAIRMAN: What has that got to do with the postponement of the Clause?

* The CHAIRMAN called the attention of the Committee to the conduct of Captain Norton, Member for Newington (West Division), who persisted in irrelevance, and directed him to discontinue his speech.

(4.8.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 101; Noes, 163. (Division List No. 286.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Allen, Charles P. (Glou., Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cremier, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Sir Edward (Berwick)
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harrington, Timothy

Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick Alfred
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
London, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McCann, James
McGovern, T.
McKean, John
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Mose, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, M.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paulton, James Mellor
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Runciman, Walter
Schwann, Charles E.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Spencer, Rt. Hon. C. R. (Northants)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tully, Jasper
Weir, James Galloway
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Blownagree, Sir M. M.
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward

Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge

Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Darning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man.)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes

Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid'x
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, James (Staffords.), N. W.
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Aenry (Somerset, E.
 Horner, Frederick William
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard Jno. (Kent, Faversham
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareh'm
 Legge, Col. Hon. Henage
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.

Loder, Gerald Walter Ersk in
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim, N.)
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mst'w
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Dept'rd)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Gr'h'm (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretyman, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robinson, Brooke
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander

Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hereford, East)
 Smith, H. C. N'th'mb. Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Uni.
 Thompson, Dr E. C. (Monagh'n N
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wason, John Carthcart (O'kn'y
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell. (Birm
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled that the first two Amendments on the Paper, the object of which was to substitute the London County Council for the Metropolitan Water Board, were out of order as being beyond the scope of the Bill; and the next two Amendments, proposing to substitute a Joint Committee for the Metropolitan Water Board, were also out of order, as they implied delegation, which would be contrary to the Bill.

CAPTAIN NORTON moved as an Amendment—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word 'Metropolitan' and insert the words 'London and Counties.'"

The title of the Bill, he said, was a misnomer, inasmuch as the Bill applied to an immense area outside the Metropolitan.

MR. WALTER LONG said he hoped the hon. and gallant Member would not persevere with his Amendment. There was a precedent for the use of the word

"Metropolitan" in "Metropolitan police," which had to patrol different counties. "Metropolitan Water Board" was a more convenient name than "London and Counties Water Board."

MR. CORRIE GRANT said that the right hon. Gentleman recognised that this was a verbal Amendment, but what they wanted to have was a title that had some meaning. As to the precedent of "Metropolitan Police," there was nothing in it, as the right hon. Gentleman must know that the constitution of that police force was an accident of an accident. The only real precedent was the "Metropolitan Board of Works," and any one who knew the history of that Board would not think of using the word "Metropolitan" again. "London and Counties Water Board" accurately described the area to be covered. The title of the Bill must have been chosen by mere accident.

MR. LOUGH said that he had an Amendment on the Paper to substitute

"Metropolitan and Districts Water Board" for "Metropolitan Water Board." The area of supply included not only the county of London, but parts of five other counties; and he thought some words should be put in the clause describing correctly the actual facts. A great many rural districts round London were to be represented on the Board, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman might accept some modification of its title.

Mr. WALTER LONG said he was exceedingly sorry that the time of the Committee should be taken up with so trifling a matter. The name was thoroughly understood by most people connected with London. No suggestion had been made in any other quarter that the name did not accurately describe the new area. To insert "Districts" would not be any better than "Counties."

Amendment negatived.

Mr. LOUGH said that the Amendment he had to move was a very substantial one, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give it his sympathetic consideration. It was apparent, at first sight, that this purchase would be a gigantic undertaking, and it should be entrusted to some body which would be able to protect the interests of the rate-payers. They had the Water Companies as vendors; on the other hand, the Water Board was not to come into existence for sometime. He thought a great purchase of this kind should be left to a body which had some experience in such matters. The Water Board had no existence at present, and could take no preliminary steps towards the purchase of the undertakings of the Water Companies; and even when it came into existence, it would have no experience to fit itself for the task of purchase. On the other hand, the Water Companies were using all the skilled assistance they could secure to baffles the efforts to obtain their undertakings at a reasonable price. He believed that each Water Company was empowered to engage the assistance of three or four counsel for the arbitration proceedings, and supposing twenty-four or thirty-two of the leading counsel at the bar, skilled

in such matters, were engaged by the Water Companies, what chance would there be for the Water Board, when it came into existence, to succeed in getting that skilled assistance which was absolutely necessary to protect the public interest? The same remark applied to the employment of skilled engineers. For every reason it was extremely risky to leave the purchase to the Water Board. The London County Council had for many years been considering this subject, and had overcome almost every difficulty in dealing with the Water Companies, and to the London County Council should be left the conduct of the negotiation for the purchase of the Water Companies' undertakings. The London County Council had been passed over, and another authority had been found to carry out the purchase; and it would have been far better, in his opinion, if this duty had been undertaken by the old authority rather than left with the new. When the new body was called into existence it would have no power, no office, no experience of working together, and it would have all the difficulties which were put upon new bodies, and would have forced upon it this enormous responsibility of purchasing from the companies, a matter which would tax the oldest and the most experienced administrative body in the kingdom. He thought, for these reasons, the question which he had raised was a most important one, and he therefore begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 8, to leave out the words 'acquiring by purchase and of.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

(4.35.) Mr. WALTER LONG said there could be no question but that the hon. Member had raised a considerable point, but at the same time he hoped the Committee would not require a long time to discuss it. He could not imagine it to be possible that at this stage in the history of the London Water question any considerable number of Members could be found to support the proposition of the hon. Member, which

would put the new body in an intolerable position, and would lead to certain confusion. This Amendment went right to the root of the principle of the Bill. It would be impossible for the new Board to approach any of the important questions, such as the equalisation of charges, which awaited solution, if their sole duty was to manage and control, and the financial arrangements were in the hands of another body. It was obvious that if this suggestion were accepted the recommendations of the Royal Commission would have to be adopted, because there would have to be some further supervision in the hands of a Government Department. For these reasons he hoped the Committee would not accept the Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON did not think the Amendment was directed against the principle of purchase, as the right hon. Gentleman seemed to think. It simply raised the question as to whether there should be one authority to purchase and one to manage, or whether there should be the same authority for both purposes. His own attitude would depend on the ultimate form of this Clause. If they were assured that the Water Board would be reduced in size, he would not wish to see the Amendment passed; but they had to consider the nature of the Board which was to make the purchase according to the Bill as it stood. He thought they depended too much upon the efficiency of this large body, and to his mind the question would turn upon whether such a large body could be an efficient body. It was impossible to give an opinion on that off-hand, because the Committee had not had sufficient time to study it. If the purchasing body were to be the large, inconvenient, and fantastic body now proposed in the Bill, he would certainly support the Amendment. He could not conceive why such a body should be selected for this purpose. It was the most unsuitable body that could be picked out to arrange a purchase at a certain time. The day fixed for the purchase in the Bill was a very early one, and it was not conceivable that this body of seventy-three persons—most of whom had not seen each other before; who had no common action, common interest, or common knowledge of the Water question; who would have no office, and no staff—would be in a position to deal with the Water Companies in regard to the purchase of their properties. The Water Companies would

naturally make the best possible case they could in order to get the best price for their shareholders, and it was the duty of the Committee, as representing the ratepayers—the consumers—to see that the price was not unduly inflated or extravagant. But when eight Water Companies combined to get the greatest possible price, with all their knowledge and control, and when on the other side there was this chaotic, nondescript, fantastic body, with no policy whatever, the probability was that a very bad bargain would be made so far as the ratepayers were concerned, whether it was by agreement or whether it was by arbitration. The one body which had some knowledge of this matter would be excluded from taking any part or share in it, and therefore he thought there ought to be in this part of the Bill a distinction between the question of purchase and the subsequent management. He had a very great fear of negotiations, and he noticed by the second Clause of the Bill that the Board had power to come to an agreement with the Water Companies. He thought all these questions ought to be dealt with on a separate footing, and not by agreement but by arbitration. He was of opinion that if this was to be arranged by an agreement, the Board would be practically at the mercy of the Water Companies, and would have to pay a very extravagant price. If the matter came before the arbitrators, as in his opinion it ought, it was quite clear the case ought to be strongly put before them on both sides so as to ensure an impartial judgment. As the Bill now stood, it would not be in the power of the arbitrators to give a proper and mature judgment, because they would only hear one side of the case, that of the water companies. In voting for the Amendment he disclaimed entirely any intention to vote against the principle of purchase. He voted for it because this body was, in his opinion, absolutely incompetent to carry through the purchase, and the only body which was competent had been excluded from taking any part in the matter.

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) thought it was the last speaker who misapprehended the scope of the Amendment, which certainly attacked the principle of the Bill. He believed at the

Mr. Walter Long.

present time there was a universal consensus of opinion that the time had arrived when the question of purchase ought to be settled. The objections of the hon. Member were directed entirely against the tribunal which, by the Bill, it was proposed to establish as the authority. The question raised by the Amendment was whether there was to be purchase or not. It was not the case that the County Council would be entirely excluded from the consideration of the purchase, as the hon. Gentleman had said.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: As a body.

MR. CHAPLIN: As a body! That was a different thing. But the County Council would be represented by ten members on the new Board. He was ready to admit, and he gladly admitted, that there was an excellent section of the County Council who had a thorough and able knowledge of the London Water question, and if they took ten gentlemen from the Council and put them on the Metropolitan Board he believed they would exhaust all the particular knowledge to be found on the County Council.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had used a strong argument against the course which he wished the Committee to take. The right hon. Gentleman said that there were not more than ten members of the London County Council who had a knowledge of the London Water question. That might or might not be true, but if the County Council were to contribute all these members to the proposed body, the right hon. Gentleman ought to have carried his argument further. How many of the sixty-three remaining members would have a knowledge of the London water question? He ventured to say that not more than three or four would have a knowledge equal to that of the seven or eight or ten members of the County Council. What would happen? It would mean that by their intimate knowledge of the question the members of the County Council would exercise a disproportionate influence in converting the other members to their own particular

views. He objected to a small section of the body being in a position to use their knowledge, influence, and experience to such an extent. That being the case, they were confronted with the question—What was the body best qualified to undertake the purchase? Speaking in the presence of the directors of Water Companies, he said frankly that the interests of the companies would be better protected, as far as that was compatible with the interests of the water consumers, if three trustees in whom the companies and London generally had confidence were to be appointed to carry out the purchase. If that arrangement were adopted, he ventured to submit that a purchase price would be arranged which would be more satisfactory to the two interests concerned, than would be the case if the purchase were carried out by a body of seventy-three members, perhaps unduly influenced by the ten members of the County Council, who would have had ten or twelve years continuous experience of the subject. If the Committee declined to appoint three trustees, then it seemed to him that the next best thing would be to remit the matter to the Local Government Board, in which, perhaps, he would have some confidence. Failing the trustees and the Local Government Board, the only other body was the County Council. Whatever might be its attitude towards the London Water question in the past, it had knowledge and experience; and had at its disposal men like Mr. Dickenson, Mr. McKinnon Wood, Mr. Hayward, and Mr. Young, as well as the Council's engineers, all of whom had displayed great firmness, ability, and energy in defending the interests of the London ratepayers. He would put it to the Directors of the London Water Companies that the members of the body of seventy-three would in too many cases be elected on one programme. That programme might be to take it out of the Water Companies, in which case that body would do an injustice, through ignorance and lack of experience, which the Committee ought to save it from. If the body did not do that, it would take the other view, and would say it was time the question was settled. It could only be settled in one of two ways; either by being harsh on the Water Companies, or being harsh on the ratepayers. He believed that the directors

of the Water Companies would be satisfied to have the purchase conducted by the County Council, allowing the body of seventy-three to manage the matter afterwards; and he ventured to say that if the County Council were nominated by the Government to carry out the purchase, there would be a strong probability that the matters at issue between the Water Companies and the Council would not reach the stage of arbitration at all. He hoped and believed that the knowledge the directors of the Water Companies and the County Council had acquired as to the real value of the undertaking, would result in an amicable settlement being arrived at. If the Committee would not sanction the trustees or the Local Government Board or the County Council to conduct the purchase, it might take a very long time before the purchase would be completed; an injustice would be inflicted on one of the two interests involved; and a condition of things would be brought about which the Government did not anticipate. The more he saw of purchase in London, the more convinced he was that it was far better, when land was to be acquired, or when Tramway or Water Companies were to be brought out, to leave the purchase to a relatively small body of honest, able, competent men, who had the time and the inclination to concentrate all their energies on the task immediately at hand. The nearest approach to that type of body was the County Council. It was ridiculous for hon. Members opposite to think that they could ever hope to secure justice all round from a body consisting of seventy-three members, drawn from an area of 440 square miles, without premises officers or continuity of knowledge and experience which either the trustees or the County Council would possess. It was because he had no desire to be unjust to the Water Companies or to the water consumers, that he protested against the purchase being carried out by such an unwieldy body as was proposed, and which would possess neither knowledge nor experience.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said that the speech of the hon. Member

Mr. John Burns.

strengthened his hope that the Government would not accept the Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Sleaford Division had said that these were only ten members of the County Council who were acquainted with the Water question; but five at least of the other members of the new body would have knowledge of the question; and, therefore, there would be fifteen altogether. That seemed to him to be a distinct advantage. The County Council claimed to have a very good staff, but in the ordinary course of events, the new body might be able to secure from the County Council, gentlemen who had a special knowledge of the water question. He thought the new body would secure the best experts and officials they could find. What was the point at issue? Whenever anyone bought a thing they bought it as cheaply as possible; and that, it seemed to him, would be the policy of the new Board. They would want to make as good a bargain for the ratepayers as they possibly could. For these reasons, it appeared to him that the proposal of the Government was the best.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said that the real point raised by the Amendment was whether the purchasing body and the managing body should be one and the same or separate. Apprehension had been caused by the proposed constitution of the body, and the absence of previous experience and skilled assistance, lest the price might not be fairly fixed. For his part, he should have frankly preferred that the County Council should have the management of the whole affair; but the Government would not consent to that. He hoped, however, that when the new body was appointed, it would get to work as quickly as possible, in order to avoid the very serious danger to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred. He hoped they would preface any compulsory fixing of the price by an attempt to come to a reasonable agreement, and for this purpose it was necessary that they should be well informed.

(5.3.) DR. MACNAMARA did not think a composite Water Board such as was proposed was the best body to secure

cheap transfer, but said it must not be supposed on that account that he was opposed to purchase. He was strongly in favour of purchase carried out in a manner which would secure the arrangement of fair and reasonable terms between shareholders and ratepayers. He did not desire to destroy the principle of purchase, but he wanted a competent Board appointed to conduct the purchase. This purchase had to be carried out on behalf of seventy-eight distinct authorities with varying interests, and they had no confidence that a cheap bargain would be secured for the people by a body such as that which was proposed. Looking at the financial propriety of this question, the London County Council represented the London ratepayers who were going to get another pull through the Borough Councils. He wanted to know where the money was going to come from. Was it coming out of each borough fund? If so, this was a most iniquitous proposal for the poorer parts of London. If, on the other hand, the money was, as he hoped, coming from the various county funds, what right had the Borough Councils to be represented on the Water Board at all? What right had the London ratepayer to a double pull? They had included in this body representatives of the Conservators of the River Thames and the Lea Conservators Board, but what right had they to be represented on the purchasing body? They were water sellers and had no right to be represented on the Board which was going to purchase these undertakings from them on behalf of the ratepayers. There was no justification for purchase by a composite Board at all. All our large provincial towns and municipalities owned their Water supplies, but they bought them themselves and supplied large areas outside their own district with water. In those instances Parliament never insisted that the purchase should be effected by a composite body representing the outside areas, and if they appointed the body which was proposed in this Clause they would not get a cheap bargain. Bradford bought its own supply, and was now supplying as many areas outside Bradford as inside, and in this case there was not even a proposal made for the representation of any of the outside areas. Bolton bought its own Water supply, and supplied more people outside

than within its own area, and there was not even a claim made for outside representation in the case of Bolton. The setting up of this composite body was bound to bring serious burdens upon the London ratepayers. They wished to strike out of this Clause the purchasing power because they had no confidence in the purchasing body. He would remind hon. Members opposite that the London County Council always put in its purchasing clauses provision for admitting upon the managing body representatives of outside areas. That was a great deal further than they went in Bolton and Bradford, but they could not find anywhere a proposal for a composite body, and this proposal would give London ratepayers a double representation on the purchasing body. While he was strongly in favour of purchase it ought to be carried out on sound financial grounds, and upon fair and reasonable terms as between the water sellers and the ratepayers.

MR. LOUGH said that his intention had been misrepresented. He did not oppose the principle of purchase, but as the Bill now stood the new body would be extremely ill-equipped for carrying out that difficult operation. It did not appear to have been observed that a great change had been made in this matter. The Bill, as it left the House, fixed the appointed day as the 1st of January, 1903, and it was intended that the new Board should come into possession of the Water Companies' offices and take over the undertakings before arbitration took place. That arrangement had now been entirely altered, and the appointed day was now to be at the end of 1903 or in 1904, and the arbitration was to be completed before the appointed day, and before the Water Board came into possession of the company's premises.

MR. WALTER LONG: It is perfectly true that the Committee has altered the appointed day to the 25th of December, 1903, but there is no alteration in the Bill with regard to the passing over of the Water Companies' property before the appointed day.

MR. LOUGH contended that the object of the companies in postponing the appointed day was that the arbitration might be completed before the appointed day came.

MR. WALTER LONG: If this Bill passes the Water Board will be elected next November, and it can at once take over all the companies' offices and equipments, and all the machinery.

MR. LOUGH said his point was that it could not take over these offices, seeing that one year afterwards the new offices and an immense staff would be thrust upon them. On the Opposition side they were all unanimous as to the desirability of purchase, but they wanted it carried out so as to protect the interest of the ratepayers.

(5.15.) CAPTAIN NORTON said that experience went to show that Joint Committees were a failure, and it was hardly to be expected that they would be a success in dealing with this important purchase. A case analogous to the one under discussion occurred with refer-

ence to dealing with the sewage in the area of the Lower Thames, and the authorities concerned formed a Joint Committee. What was the result? This Committee was formed in 1877 and existed up to the year 1885, and then it had to commit suicide, because it was unable to do the work, and it introduced a Bill into the House of Lords to do away with itself. That Committee spent £45,000 upon legal and engineering expenses, and it had no assets of any kind. As soon as they had got rid of this Committee the various authorities concerned dealt with the question separately, whereas they were unable to do it with a Joint Committee. That was the only London experience they had to go upon, and if it failed in a case like that, the idea of succeeding in the case of such a Board as that which was now proposed was preposterous. He should, therefore, support the Amendment of his hon. friend.

(5.14.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 192; Noes, 101. (Division List, No. 287.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry

Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Coddington, Sir William
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred

Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, George
Douglass, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliott Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-

Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St Edmunds
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid
 Hamilton, Marq. of (Lond & N
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Horner, Frederick William
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hoults, Joseph
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Laurie, Lieut.-General
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorne
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Moore, William (Antrim N.)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouthsh.
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William Arthur
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James, (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, S. Forde (Betsnal Green
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson

Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew
 Simeon, Sir Rarrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Rimford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
 Smith, James Parker (Lanark*)
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Un'v.
 Thompson, Dr. E. C. (Monagh'n, N
 Thorburn, Sir William
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edward M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunt'n
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Powell. (Bir.
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Allan, Sir William (Gateshead
 Allen, Chas. P. (Gloucester, Stroud
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
 Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
 Bolton, Thomas Doling
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Burns, John
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carew, James Laurence
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cremer, William Randal
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen
 Delany, William
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Donelan, Captain A.

Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Elibank, Master of
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Fenwick, Charles
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Jacoby James Alfred
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James

Kitson, Sir James
 Lambert, George
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Govern, T.
 M'Kean, John
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
 Mooney, John J.
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
 Moss, Samuel
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norman, Henry
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. T. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscomm'n, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.

Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William (Snowdon)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Spencer, Rt. Hn. CR (Northants)
 Sullivan, Donal
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)

Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
 Tomkinson, James
 Tully, Jasper
 Weir, James Galloway
 Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
 Young, Samuel
 Voxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lough and Captain
 Norton

Committee report progress; to sit
 again upon Monday next.

FACTORY ACTS—FRUIT PRESERVING ORDER—PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

(5.30.) On the Motion for adjourn-
 ment:—

*MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield Hallam) said he wished to make a personal explanation. In the debate last night on the Motion of his right hon. friend the Member for Oxford University in regard to the proposal to amend a special Order made by the Home Secretary with reference to the fruit preserving industry, he had contested the argument of the Home Secretary that, should the House disagree with the Order, then he could not make a fresh Order for the space of forty days. The right hon. Gentleman had assured him that the Act called the Rules Publication Act, 1893, applied to the case, and that it would have been necessary for him to wait forty days in order to give a sufficient amount of notice to the public outside. He regretted that by putting his own opinion, for which he still thought there were some grounds, in the affirmative form and not in the interrogative, he had not given the right hon. Gentleman the opportunity of correcting it. The matter was really

of importance, and had affected some of the votes given. He had made the statement at the time in the full belief that the right hon. Gentleman would correct him if he was wrong, but the last thing in the world that he should desire to do would be to accuse his right hon. friend of even the semblance of injustice.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I am much obliged to my right hon. friend for the statement he has made, which is one all who know him might have expected from him when he finds that he has made a mistake in what was really a very important matter. I had already stated in the previous debate that it was necessary for a new Order to be published in draft for forty days. My right hon. friend not only contested that statement, but expressed a belief entirely in the opposite direction. It was not in my power to rise and make a full explanation at the time, or I should have done so. My right hon. friend now grants that I was right. I have no doubt the matter did affect some votes, but that is now a thing of the past, and I am much obliged to my right hon. friend for having put the matter right.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes
 before Six o'clock till Monday
 next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 14th July, 1902.

THE EARL OF MINTO.

Took the oath.

REPRESENTATIVE PEER FOR IRELAND.

Writs and Returns electing the Lord Oranmore and Browne a Representative Peer for Ireland in the room of the Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, deceased, with the certificate of the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland annexed thereto: Delivered (on oath), and certificate read.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

London United Tramways.

And also the Certificate that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

Post Office Sites.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

WEST GLOUCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.

Read 3^a, and passed.

MIDLAND RAILWAY (STEAM VESSELS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

NORWICH CORPORATION (ELECTRICITY, ETC.) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

GREAT CENTRAL AND MIDLAND RAILWAYS (SOUTH YORKSHIRE RAILWAYS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

VOL. CXI.

[FOURTH SERIES.]

STONEHAVEN TOWN HALL ORDER CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [H.L.].

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

HUDDERSFIELD CORPORATION BILL, MANCHESTER CORPORATION (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

ABERDEEN ACCOUNTANTS ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.].

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS ETC.) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

COMMONS REGULATION (SODBURY) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 149.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 356. Falkland Islands; Report for 1901.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Second Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire and report what methods of treating and disposing of sewage may properly be adopted.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND) (SAVINGS BANKS FUNDS) (FRIENDLY SOCIETIES FUND).

Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1901.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 8th July, 1902, declaring that Spencer James, Post Office Sorting Clerk, Exeter, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his Department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

D

RESIGNATION OF LORD SALISBURY—
THE NEW PRIME MINISTER.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (the Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, although the announcement which I have to make to your Lordships has been anticipated by the information which you have already received through other channels, it is my duty formally to announce to your Lordships' House the resignation of Lord Salisbury of the office of Prime Minister and Leader of this House, and the acceptance of the office of Prime Minister by my right hon. friend Mr. Arthur Balfour. Although this event has come somewhat suddenly upon us, I do not conceive that it can have taken any of your Lordships entirely by surprise. When Lord Salisbury, now nearly a year and a half ago, reigned the office of Foreign Secretary, which he had filled with such conspicuous ability, and in which he had taken so deep an interest, it must have been obvious to all of us that the diminution of his strength which induced him to take that step would probably be followed by a desire to be relieved of the still more arduous responsibility of the office of Prime Minister. I have reason to think that, but for the unexpected prolongation of the war, during the continuance of which his retirement might have given rise to unfounded suppositions, it is highly probable that he would have sought the repose to which he is so justly entitled at an earlier period than the present. I have already had occasion in another place to express—I am afraid most feebly and imperfectly—my sense of the great loss which the country sustains through the resignation of Lord Salisbury—through the retirement of a public servant who possessed the uncommon and remarkable powers of statesmanship with which Lord Salisbury was endowed. I need not attempt to repeat those expressions; but I may remind your Lordships that Lord Salisbury retires not only from the office of Prime Minister, but from the leadership of your Lordships' House. I could have wished that it had fallen to some Member of that great majority of the Members of this House, who have now for a long series of years followed the leadership of Lord Salisbury, with implicit and undoubting confidence,

to express our sense of his qualities as a Parliamentary leader not less than as a statesman. I myself have, I trust, fully recognised those qualities, both when it was my fate to be in opposition to him, and, in recent years, as a colleague. But it would be scarcely fitting that I should attempt to give expression to those feelings of attachment which the great Conservative Party must feel to their late leader; and I am not without hope even now, although many of Lord Salisbury's oldest and most trusted colleagues are not present with us to-day, that some one of his more immediate adherents may do justice to that subject. But, my Lords, in the name of that smaller portion of your Lordships' House, who, as Liberal Unionists, have in recent years contributed to form what is now the Unionist party, I may venture to express our deep sense of the forbearance, the courtesy, and the strict impartiality of the whole of his conduct in his relations towards ourselves. I have no declaration of policy to make to your Lordships in consequence of this change. Mr. Balfour has been able to assure his followers that, with one exception—an exception deeply to be regretted—he has been able to secure the promise of the assistance of the greater number of his present colleagues. Inasmuch as that one exception is not, as I understand it, to be followed by an immediate resignation, there is still room for hope that it may yet be averted. But in the statement which has already been made at the Foreign Office, and in the statement which has already been made in the House of Commons, the Prime Minister has given to his followers no reason to suppose that this change of Ministers will be followed by any change of the policy which has already been announced to both Houses of Parliament. It only remains for me to say that—as has been indicated to your Lordships by the fact that I am the person to make this announcement to your Lordships—it is the wish of the Prime Minister that I should undertake the duties of the leadership of this House. I am aware that the task which I am thus undertaking is a difficult one, and that I cannot expect to fill the position in this House which has been filled by its late leader. But the experience

which I have been able to gain on more than one occasion, when it has been my duty in the temporary absence of Lord Salisbury to fill his place, leaves me not without hope that I may look in all quarters of the House—as well among those who sit opposite to me as those who sit beside me—to receive, not, indeed, complete acquiescence or approval on all occasions, but, at all events, forbearance and good will. I trust, with the assistance of the House, to be able to carry on the business of the Government in this House in a manner which may be consistent with the great traditions of the House and with the best interests of the country.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I rise at once to offer some remarks to your Lordships on the momentous and important statement which we saw this morning in the public Press, and which the noble Duke has made your Lordships acquainted with. It is a momentous and important event when a man of the great ability and influence of Lord Salisbury retires from the office of Prime Minister. But in this House there is special reason to note it and to take account of this great change; for in this House for many years Lord Salisbury has exercised a predominant and powerful influence. I am sure your Lordships will have heard with great regret the announcement that Lord Salisbury's resignation has been accepted by the King and that he is no longer Prime Minister of this country. I do not propose tonight to return to the political aspect of the position or to what the noble Duke has said in regard to the continuance of the same policy by the Government over which Mr. Balfour will preside. I shall confine myself especially to the effect which this great change must have on your Lordships' House. On this side of the House we have differed and do differ from the principles which Lord Salisbury has inculcated and carried out during his Prime Ministership; and in many debates we have argued against the policy with which the noble Marquess was identified. I think that we may congratulate ourselves in this country, however, that the admiration of a man of high ability and great character is not confined to his own

adherents and followers. We who have been opposed to Lord Salisbury are able to admire the very high qualities which he has displayed, not only as Foreign Minister, but as Prime Minister. The incidents of his brilliant career, not only in the House of Commons, but also in this House, are well known to the world; and I will venture to say that his reputation stands high among the statesmen, not only of this country, but of the world. My Lords, I cannot but revert to our relations with Lord Salisbury in this House; and I venture to say that he has always treated his opponents with the most complete courtesy. I cannot recall any occasion in debate when Lord Salisbury used an unfair expression or words against those with whom he differed. He differed, no doubt, constantly in strong and emphatic words, but he never transgressed the line where fairness to opponents is concerned. We acknowledge and are grateful for this generous attitude, which Lord Salisbury has always occupied, and we thank him for it. I am sure the country, and the Liberals who oppose and have opposed the policy of Lord Salisbury, will deeply regret that a man of such influence, of such power, and of such high character is no longer at the head of His Majesty's Government. We here, especially, deeply regret that we shall not hear again from him as Prime Minister, or as Leader of the Opposition, those speeches which in times gone by we have always greatly admired, not only for their ability, but for the singular spontaneous excellence of his words and expressions. Few spoke like him. I venture to think that few of your Lordships have failed in years gone by to have been gratified and delighted with the splendid effort of intelligence and ability which his speeches always contained. I will say no more with regard to Lord Salisbury. But I will venture to congratulate the noble Duke on the position which he is to occupy. In old days the noble Duke and I have been intimately connected, and I think few, even amongst his present colleagues, can speak with greater authority than I can with regard to him. I can say with complete knowledge, and with the utmost sincerity, that your Lordships will have as Leader of this House not only one of great capacity and

experience, but one in whose high honour every Member of the House can completely rely.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, it is only because of the appeal which was made by the noble Duke who is now Leader of the House that I venture in one word to trespass on your attention. It is, I suppose, impossible for any one not to recognise the fact that a very great loss has been incurred by the loss of Lord Salisbury's counsels; and, speaking for the moment on behalf of those with whom his life has been associated—I mean that wing of the great Unionist Party with which he was more intimately associated—I think I can say, besides that reputation for sagacity and genius, which is not confined to any Party, indeed, I think I might say is not confined to any country, the feeling of those of whom he was for so many years the representative, is such that it would be impossible in adequate words to describe their sense of his loss and their admiration of the career which is now closed. It is difficult, indeed, for one who has enjoyed, as I have, the honour of being for at least seventeen years in the closest personal friendship with Lord Salisbury to say anything adequate to such an occasion as this. All I will say, on behalf of that great Party in whose name I venture to speak, is that he has ever enjoyed their complete and entire confidence, that he has carried out their views as if they had been his views in everything he has done, and that from first to last he has been loyal to those great traditions under which that Party exists.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: My Lords, these are scenes which are, I think, peculiar to the British Parliament. I think it should be our pride to reflect that, on the disappearance from official life of a great figure like Lord Salisbury, Party lines disappear, and the public feeling finds a common voice in the speakers on all Benches. In reference to that point, may I express momentary surprise at the stress which the noble Duke laid on the line, which has become imperceptible to the unpractised eye, which seems yet to divide the two wings of the Unionist Party. My Lords, in the first place, allow me to congratulate

Earl Spencer.

the noble Duke on the position which he has assumed, I venture to say, with the general consent and approval of this House. Speaking on behalf of those who are less bound by Party ties than my noble friend behind me, I am quite certain there is no Member of your Lordships' House that will not gladly agree with the noble Duke on every occasion on which it is possible to do so, and that when they have the misfortune to differ from him, they will differ from him loyally, and knowing that he differs from them with equal honesty. But, my Lords, that is not what is in all our minds today. It is the disappearance from official life of that great figure which has for more than twenty years been the dominant figure in this House, and, indeed, since the resignation of Mr. Gladstone, the prominent figure in the life of this country. I cannot but say that, whoever may rise up to succeed Lord Salisbury, the House for long indeed, will have been shorn of much of its interest, and we shall feel, as we felt when Lord Beaconsfield and Mr. Gladstone disappeared from the scene, that Parliamentary life had lost more than half its interest. He was privileged to be the adviser of the later years of our Elizabeth, as his great ancestor had been the adviser of the first Elizabeth; and, though we had occasion often to differ from him, none of those who opposed him, still less those who had occasion sometimes to cross swords with him in unequal combat, but must have admired the rich eloquence, delivered in those organ tones, the epigrammatic and literary form of his discourse, and the authority with which he spoke, not merely to Great Britain, but to the world. That is a figure which we cannot in a moment replace. Sometimes a great forest tree has been cut down, and has allowed the younger shoots to rise to the sun and receive new vigour and development from the absence of the overshadowing tree. And I hope it may be so here, and that, though we cannot hope to see Lord Salisbury constantly in his place, a generation may yet arise, not unworthy of his character, of his eloquence, and of his ability, to fill in some degree the place he has left vacant.

THE DUKE OF ABERCORN: My Lords, may I be allowed to say a few words on the great loss which this House has sustained by the resignation of Lord Salisbury? We shall miss him on many occasions. He is a great statesman, of the highest order and the highest capability. He led his Party not with a rod of iron, but by the wand of ability, and I may also say, of affection. He never in any speech he made intentionally hurt the feelings of his opponents. But what I should like especially to say on this occasion is with regard to the noble Duke who has taken Lord Salisbury's place. The noble Duke, with his usual modesty, stated that it might have been wished that some one of the large majority on this side of the House might take the place of the late Premier. I venture to say that everyone on this side rejoices that one of the great house of Cavendish is their Leader in this House.

THE EARL OF FEVERSHAM: My Lords, as one of the oldest Members of your Lordships' House and one who has followed the noble Marquess, the late Prime Minister, ever since the resignation of Lord Beaconsfield, and who was present at the meeting at which the noble Marquess was selected Leader of the Party in this House, I wish to express my very sincere regret at the great loss which the Party and the country have sustained in the resignation of Lord Salisbury. The distinguished abilities of Lord Salisbury, and the long brilliant services which he has given to his country, have already been referred to in eloquent terms by the noble Duke and other noble Lords who have spoken. I only wish, as an old Member and supporter of that great Party to which the noble Duke has properly alluded, to say how much we lament the loss which has been sustained, and how much we agree with every tribute of admiration which has been expressed. I think we are fortunate in obtaining the services of the noble Duke as the successor of the noble Marquess, and I, for one, believe that we are all ready to offer to him the support which we were always glad to give to his predecessor.

LICENSING BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, I think it will be recognised as an undoubted fact that this Bill deals with one of the most important of the social questions that have been before your Lordships this session. The question of the sale of intoxicating liquor and of the amendment of the law with regard to drunkenness is one which has attracted the attention of the country for many years. There has been a prolonged and full inquiry by Royal Commission, and the question has been brought over and over again before both Houses of Parliament. In asking your Lordships to give this Bill a Second Reading, I feel that my responsibility is very much lightened by the knowledge that many Members of your Lordships' House take a very genuine interest in this question. It has been repeatedly stated in many parts of the House that your Lordships would like to see some of the points with regard to the licensing question settled on reasonable and moderate lines; and, indeed, Bills have been brought forward from several quarters of the House dealing with many parts of the question. Two Bills, which passed through this House, were brought forward last year by the Bishop of Winchester, dealing with several of the points with which the Government's Licensing Bill deals this session. I cannot help remembering that when the Home Secretary was not able, in accordance with the promise made in the Speech from the Throne, to bring forward the Licensing Bill last year, it was repeatedly urged from many quarters of the House that an opportunity should be given to this House for a discussion of the question, and that the measure should be introduced in your Lordships' House. Under these circumstances, I feel I need say nothing by way of apology or by way of argument upon the desirability of some measure of this sort being brought forward.

The Bill deals with three important questions—namely, drunkenness, licences, and better control of clubs. It is practically founded upon the part of the Report of the Royal Commission in

which we find a very large unanimity of opinion both from those who signed the Majority Report and those who signed the Minority Report. Without saying that all the provisions of this Bill carry out precisely the recommendations made in these two Reports, at all events I feel that I am dealing with questions on which there is no very wide diversity of opinion. The first part of the Bill deals with the question of drunkenness, and contains practically the same provisions as were before your Lordships last year. It will be remembered that the right reverend prelate the Bishop of Winchester last year brought forward a Bill dealing with this question. I think the House is very much indebted to him for the course he then pursued; and I, personally, so far from having anything to complain of, am very glad of the opportunity that was then afforded for discussing some of the provisions of this Bill. At all events, it lightens my task today, because I feel that those Amendments which I had to propose, and which the right reverend prelate accepted, although they were not discussed at any very great length, at all events received in general terms the approval of your Lordships' House. The principal part of this Bill deals with the drunken man. The measure does not interfere in any way with the liberty of the moderate drinker, but makes a very effective alteration in the law regarding drunkenness, and specially deals with the man who is a habitual drunkard, and who has shown that he is unable to control himself. By this Bill, he will be able to be dealt with, and will have restrictions imposed upon him.

The first Clause provides that a person found drunk and incapable on any highway, on being apprehended, may be charged under the Bill, and that will be a very useful alteration of the law. At present a man can be apprehended for being drunk and disorderly, and he may be charged with the offence; but if he is drunk and incapable, however incapable he may be, he cannot be charged without a summons being taken out, and the proposed alteration will, therefore, be of very great advantage to the police in dealing with this question. The second Clause is one which will obviously, I think, receive the approval

of every Member of this House. It is that if a person is found drunk on the highway in charge of a child under seven years of age, he or she shall be liable, on summary conviction, to a fine, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, not exceeding one month. That Clause has already been approved by the House, and I think it needs no words of mind to commend it to the common sense of every Member. The third Clause is a very small matter, but will be found very useful, and has already been made use of by some magistrates. It gives the power to magistrates to order an offender to enter into his recognisances for good behaviour. There is some doubt whether, in this particular case, that is strictly legal; and those who have the administration of the law think that this provision will be of very valuable assistance to them in putting down drunkenness.

With regard to the other part of the Bill, dealing with habitual drunkards, I should like to call special attention to Clause 6, which is known as the "black list" Clause, and which deals with the man who is not only a habitual drunkard, but who has been convicted in such a way as to render himself liable to detention in an inebriates' reformatory. I think your Lordships will admit that this is a necessary corollary of the Inebriates Act which passed this House some four years ago. Clause 6 of this Bill prohibits the sale of liquor to persons declared to be habitual drunkards, and puts a penalty on the publicans serving such persons. I am, of course, aware that in very populous places the Clause may not be so effective as to enable the police to put their hands on the particular offenders, but it will be found very useful in less populous parts, where the habitual drunkard will be well known and easily recognised. Clause 5 allows a woman to get a separation order on the ground that her husband is a habitual drunkard; and the same provision is extended to a husband whose wife is a habitual drunkard. This Clause is precisely the same as the one approved of by your Lordships last year. There is another Clause on which I wish to say a word, partly because it is an important Clause, and partly because the wording of it was subjected to criticism when brought forward in your Lordships' House last

year. I refer to Clause 4, in which the burden of proof in the case of a publican permitting drunkenness in his house is transferred. As a matter of fact, the convictions of publicans for permitting drunkenness have been extremely few, and practically, the law as it stands has been an entire failure. There has been an enormous number of convictions of people for getting drunk, and it may be presumed that almost the whole of that drunkenness was caused in public houses, and it is admitted that an enormous amount of serious crime and violence is caused directly by drunkenness. What this Clause enacts is that a publican must undertake the responsibility of seeing that his house is properly conducted, and that drunkenness is not allowed. All that the Clause does is to provide that, if he is brought up and charged with permitting drunkenness, it shall lie on the licensed person to prove that he, and the persons employed by him, took all reasonable steps to prevent drunkenness on the premises. No doubt those words are wide; but discretion will be left entirely to the Court, who will have all the facts of the case, which can be proved before them. I must say that it seems to me that any man who has taken reasonable steps, and has done his best, either himself or through his servants, to prevent drunkenness, will have little difficulty, when called on to do so, in proving that he took due precautions. This provision will bring within the limits of the law many who have not conducted their houses properly, but who have escaped hitherto owing to the unsatisfactory state of the law. Those are the main provisions of the first part of this Bill; and I think your Lordships will see that, although they may be in themselves alterations which may seem small, the effect of them may be very far-reaching, and they may do a great deal, without interfering with the ordinary man who abides by the law, to improve the present state, not only of our streets, but also of many of the public houses in this country.

I come now to the second part of the Bill, which deals with a number of different questions relating to the amendment of the licensing law. Many of these provisions, although of importance, are matters of very great and intricate detail, which, perhaps, had better be left to the Committee stage to be dealt with.

I should like to call the attention of your Lordships to Clause 8, which deals with the endorsement of licences. Your Lordships will remember that this provision was brought forward last year in the Amendments which I moved to the Bishop of Winchester's Bill. By this Clause as it stands, read with the schedule, the present system of endorsement of licences is done away with, and in its place it is enacted that when a licensed person is convicted of any offence, committed by him as such, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the Licensing Justices to enter notice of every such conviction in the Register of Licences. As a matter of fact, the system of endorsing licences has been unsatisfactory. Different magistrates have taken different views of it, but in a large number of cases endorsement has not taken place, and justices called upon to give a licence may be left totally in the dark as to the previous character of the house. It is proposed now to establish a record of this kind by means of a register, which shall show the character of the house; and the justices have full power to act on their own discretion in dealing with these convictions. There was a provision in the Bill of last year to which some exception was taken. It will be remembered that a section in the clause stated that where there had been five convictions of drunkenness the magistrates could ask for reasons for granting the licence, and use their discretion accordingly. Considerable objection was—I do not think unnaturally,—taken to the wording of that Clause in this House, and it also met with criticism in another place. The mere fact of stating, in a Clause dealing with this subject, that certain steps should be taken in the case of five convictions made some people think that it was a suggestion that a licence should not be refused unless there had been five convictions. I think your Lordships will agree that it was wise to omit that section from the Bill, and to leave entire discretion to the magistrates to deal with the matter as they may think fit.

The next Clause is a new one so far as this House is concerned, and it deals with that rather important question of persons who sell intoxicating liquors by

retail for consumption off the premises. As a matter of fact, the law with regard to selling liquor off the premises is in a very anomalous position. A man who sells beer off the premises is required to get a justices' licence, and the justices can refuse it at their discretion. If he chances, however, to sell wine and spirits, practically speaking it comes to this; that the magistrates have no discretion except to conform to some statutory conditions which only enable them to refuse a licence in the case of bad conduct. This Clause now proposes to put the off spirit licence and the off-wine licence in exactly the same position as the off-beer licence. A great deal of discussion on this question took place in the House of Commons, and no doubt different views are taken with regard to the advisability of this Clause, but it has been felt that where Justices are seriously considering the question, and diminishing the number of public houses and beer houses in districts, they should have some control over the places where wines and spirits are sold for consumption off the premises, and where those who are unable to get drink otherwise may procure it. It does not follow that a very large diminution of these licences will take place, but the Clause gives magistrates absolute control and discretion in the matter. There is one important proviso to this Clause. In the other House a great effort was made to exempt from these two provisions all the existing off-spirit licences, in the same way as the existing off-beer licences were exempted by the Act of 1869. This was not granted by the Government, and the Amendment to the law put forward to exempt those houses was so far modified as to make it refer only to those individuals at the present time holding off-retail licences. This concession has been treated as if it was a very serious one, and one which will do serious damage to the Bill, but I do not think that will be looked upon as the effect of it. It gives the magistrates full control over any new houses that are started, and it recognises no vested interest whatever in the house, but only the fact that the present holder of the licence, so long as he himself continues to hold it and occupies the house, shall be able to get the licence on the same terms as he did previously.

Lord Belper.

There are other clauses in this Bill with which I will not trouble your Lordships. There are clauses which deal in great detail with questions connected with licensing. One of these clauses alters the date of the licensing meeting; and there are other clauses which deal with notices, and the time which shall elapse between the different stages. These clauses may have to be considered further before they become law, but the only one to which I will now refer is Clause 16, which deals with occasional licences. At present, the application for these licences may be made before a single Justice, and it is felt to be a great scandal, where Justices in Sessions have taken a great deal of care with regard to the issuing of licences, that a single Justice should have sole control in the case of occasional licences. This Clause provides that an occasional licence shall not be granted except with the consent of a Petty Sessional Court, provided that where there is no sitting of a Petty Sessional Court within seven days of the time when the licence is required, the consent may be given by any two Justices acting for the division and sitting together, but only after proper notices have been given with regard to the application. Clause 11 removes the disqualification of Justices interested in railways, and Clause 12 deals with the disqualification of Justices' clerks. Both provisions were in the Bill which passed your Lordships' House last year, and the one removing the disqualification of magistrates who are interested in railways has been repeatedly before you, and has always received unanimous approval. Clause 12 enacts that no solicitor or other person being a clerk of licensing Justices shall, by himself, his partner, or clerk, as solicitor or agent for any person, conduct or act in any application for or in respect of a licence or any other proceedings whatsoever under the Licensing Acts, except so far as relates to the preparation of notices or forms, and I do not think that is a very controversial point. I am quite aware that this Clause does not go so far as some of your Lordships would like to see it go. Its provisions are not so wide as some of the recommendations that were made in the Report of the Commission, but the matter has been carefully

considered by the Home Secretary and in the other House, and it is thought that, in this present form, the Clause hits a most substantial part of the evil. At any rate, the provision goes as far as the Home Secretary thinks it is desirable to go in this matter. I do not think I need say any more with regard to the second part of the Bill.

But there remains another part to which I must ask your Lordships' attention for a few minutes. It has reference to the question of clubs. Whilst it is admitted that there is an enormous number of clubs in this country which are properly conducted and very desirable institutions in themselves, and which, perhaps, have had the result rather of diminishing drunkenness than the reverse, there are some clubs which are open to very strong objection. For instance, it has been asserted that oftentimes when a licensed victualler has forfeited his licence for some misconduct he at once opens a club, which is practically a bogus club, to which he welcomes his old customers, and in regard to which there is no possibility of dealing with him. A great many of these clubs are kept open for immoral and illegal purposes, and it was recognised by the Minority Report of the Royal Commission, which dealt with this matter at some length, that it was extremely desirable to have a system of registration of clubs. The principle of this part of the Bill is that every club where liquor is provided for the members should be compelled to register, and that if a club without registering provides liquor for its members then it shall be subject to very stringent fines and penalties which will practically put a stop to anything of that sort going on. The effect of these clauses—Clauses 22 and 23—is that every club, good, bad, and indifferent, will be put upon the register. That is the principle on which the clauses are drawn. It is laid down that the register shall be in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, and that it shall be obligatory on the part of a secretary of a club to forward all the particulars required for the purpose of registration. The register will be open at all reasonable hours for inspection by an inspector or superintendent of police, or an Inland Revenue officer, or any other person

who chooses to pay a very small fee. Under that provision you will get all these clubs on the register, and you will have a knowledge of the way their business is conducted, their rules, the number of members, the terms of subscription, the rules governing entrance, and also the hours of opening and closing, and other matters of that sort. But the whole point turns on Clause 26, which provides that, where a club has been registered in pursuance of this Act, a Court of summary jurisdiction, on complaint in writing by any person, may make an order directing the club to be struck off the register on all, or any of the following grounds, namely—

(a) That the club has ceased to exist, or that the number of members is less than twenty-five; or

(b) That it is not conducted in good faith as a club, or that it is kept, or habitually used for any unlawful purpose; or

(c) That there is frequent drunkenness on the club premises; or

(d) That illegal sales of intoxicating liquor have taken place on the club premises; or

(e) That persons are habitually admitted to the privileges of the club who are not members, or entitled under the rules of the club to the privileges of members; or

(f) That the club occupies premises in respect of which, within twelve months next preceding the formation of the club, a licence has been forfeited, or the renewal of a licence has been refused, or in respect of which an order has been made that they shall not be used for the purposes of a club; or

(g) That persons are habitually admitted as members without an interval of at least forty-eight hours between the nomination and admission of members; or

(h) That the supply of intoxicating liquor to the club is not under the control of the members or the committee appointed by the members.

That Clause ought to be, and I believe it will be, sufficiently strong to ensure all clubs being properly conducted, and also to ensure their being struck off the register where offences are committed. This method of dealing with clubs is somewhat different from that recommended by the Minority Report of the Royal Commission, which was to the effect that clubs should not be placed on the register unless they conformed to certain conditions. It does seem to me that such a course would be rather in the nature of licensing clubs. The object of the Home Secretary, however, is by this Bill to get every club on the register, and, if complaint is made against them, that complaint will be

dealt with judicially, and by a judicial authority. In addition to this, there is also the power of search, if there is reasonable ground for supposing that a club is improperly managed, and with that safeguard I think the system will ensure, at all events, that bogus clubs will cease to exist. The Bill will certainly not interfere in any way with the management of good clubs—the clubs used by your Lordships in the West End, as well as the properly-conducted workmen's clubs throughout the country.

I hope I have said sufficient to make the measure intelligible to the House, and that I have been successful in commending it to your Lordships' favourable consideration. No doubt many of your Lordships would have liked the Bill to deal with a large number of other questions. I will not enter into the policy of that. All I will say is, that this Bill has gone through all its stages in the other House, and has come up to your Lordships at a reasonable time, when we can give it fair consideration, and that if the Bill had dealt with a number of those thorny questions which not only create great difference of opinion in the country, but which divided the Commission by a very prominent dividing line, I doubt, whether there would have been any prospect of passing it in a single session, even with an Autumn session tacked on. Though this Bill does not contain provisions of this sort, yet it is not a small measure. It is an important Bill, and one which I believe will deal in a very effective and far-reaching way with a number of questions which, for a very long time, have attracted the attention of Parliament and which are of the greatest importance so far as licensing reform is concerned. I ask your Lordships to give the Bill that sympathetic consideration which it has received in the other House, and, if your Lordships do that, I feel confident that a useful Amendment of the law will be placed on the Statute Book.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Lord Belper*.)

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER: My Lords, I fear I must plead guilty to having intruded perhaps too frequently during the past two or three years in discussions on this subject, but my excuse must be that there is no matter

of practical politics in the discussion of which it is more appropriate for those who sit on the Episcopal Bench to take part. I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to His Majesty's Government for the thorough-going endeavour they have made in their Bill to deal with some parts of this great and complicated question. I can speak as one who knows the difficulties of the problem, and I can perhaps appreciate better than some of your Lordships at their true value the efforts, deserving of all praise, made by the Home Secretary in the other House when dealing with this subject. More than two years have passed since in this House I moved that it was desirable that legislative effect should be given to those portions of the Report of the Royal Commission on which all its members were agreed. That Motion did not meet with full acceptance at the time, and I ventured the following year to introduce three small Bills dealing each of them with one part of the subject which the larger measure of the Government deals with today. Those Bills dealt with three subjects—the first related to habitual drunkards, the second to the qualification of licensing authorities, and the third to that most unmitigated of all shams—the *bonâ fide* traveller. The first of these Bills reappears practically in the present measure, and the second Bill has been largely, though not wholly, incorporated in the Bill now before the House, whilst certain other departments of the subject, with which I, as a private Member, could not adequately deal, have been grappled with by the Home Office, which, in the first place, has fuller information at its command, and, in the second place, has machinery for making the provisions of such a Bill clear and effective. The third Bill which I introduced had reference to the *bonâ fide* traveller, and I am sorry to say that it perished in this House, but I hope that it may be possible at some future time to revive it, as I am convinced that the question is a much larger one than many of your Lordships who voted against the Bill supposed.

Of the first thirteen Clauses of this Bill, I find that ten are taken from the measures which were introduced last

Lord Belper.

year, and I need not therefore express the approval which I entertain of the provisions therein made. Then we pass to other subjects which could, I think, only have been effectively dealt with by His Majesty's Government, and some of which have been dealt with very effectively in the Bill now before the House. The question of clubs seems to me to have been thoroughly well handled, and, as far as I am able to judge, the proposals which the Bill contains are in every way deserving of acceptance by your Lordships. They do not correspond exactly with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, but they deal with the subject in a way which I believe to be more satisfactory than that recommended either in the Majority or Minority Report. I am not able, however, to congratulate the Government so cordially as to their treatment of grocers' licences. It does seem to me that a good proposition and a good Clause has been marred in the last resort by the insertion of a provision which will not merely hinder what has been proposed from becoming effective, but will establish a new set of people with a vested interest which may hereafter turn out to be the cause of great difficulty when the time arrives to deal with the question. The subject calls for serious attention, and I have reason to believe that Amendments will be moved in Committee. I will not go into the details of those Amendments now, but I am certain that the matter ought to be thoroughly thrashed out before the Bill is passed into law. Another provision which calls for notice is the protection afforded to a husband as against an inebriate wife. That was an addition brought in by the Government to the proposals contained in the original Bill which I introduced a year ago. We confined the provision at that time to an endeavour to protect the wife against the husband without endeavouring to protect the husband against the wife. The subject is a most difficult one, and it is excessively hard to steer the right course among the various shoals with which it is surrounded. I believe that on the whole the decision at which the Government has arrived, and which is embodied in this Bill, is the right one, though it is with some hesitation that I arrive at that conclusion; for we may run the risk of a great peril by turning loose on the world a large number of inebriate women

who have been turned out from their husbands' homes without any means of supporting themselves, and who may be unable to obtain from their husbands the money which the law compels them to pay. The subject is an intricate and perplexing one, and though I think the conclusion arrived at is the right one, I am not prepared to say so without some hesitation and doubt.

From this Bill has disappeared the provision we tried to carry into law last year with regard to the disqualification of members of Watch Committees who are interested in the liquor trade. There, again, we have to deal with a most difficult subject. *Prima facie* it seems clear that the disqualifications which render a magistrate incompetent to sit as a licensing authority if he is interested in the liquor trade ought equally to disqualify him from serving on a Watch Committee, and controlling the police in their dealings with public houses. I think it right, however, to say that, having considered the matter in great detail, I have come to the conclusion that I was mistaken in thinking last year that legislation to that effect was practically possible without unfairness. I believe that the decision which His Majesty's Government has come to on that point is the right one, and that, though desirable, it is impracticable to introduce the provisions I formerly desired. There are several small points in the Bill upon which I propose to suggest some Amendments, but none of them are very formidable. When the time comes, I shall be prepared to defend them. I would merely say, in conclusion, that I hope that the Government, encouraged by the success which has attended this brave and persistent endeavour to grapple with our difficulties, will go a little further still, and endeavour to do what is urgently required, namely, to consolidate the law upon the whole subject. We want to prevent its being necessary, as it is now, for any one concerned in the administration of licences to plod through statute after statute, which seem to the uninitiated to be almost contradictory in themselves, and which require an expert hand to reduce them into shape and form. Meanwhile, I desire to tender my cordial thanks to the Government for the successful endeavour which has been made to deal with one of the thorniest questions in English politics.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading of this Bill said he believed there were many noble Lords who desired to see moderate and sensible licensing reforms. I agree with him. I believe there are many persons, not merely in your Lordships' House, but throughout the country, who are strongly of opinion that real improvements in the licensing laws must be made. I am glad to be able to congratulate His Majesty's Government on this Bill. It is, truly, not an ambitious Bill, but it deals with a number of practical questions, some of small, and others of greater importance, in a way likely to produce a considerable effect on the administration of the law. The noble Lord rather apologised, at the end of his speech, for the Bill not dealing with more subjects.

LORD BELPER: I did not apologise on that ground. I said I thought that perhaps there were some Members who would like to see the Bill deal with more subjects than it does.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: I agree that the number of questions already dealt with is so large that it would be unwise to endeavour to introduce any more subjects into the Bill, which might possibly wreck it. I hope, however, that the noble Lord will not relax his energies in the future. There are many burning questions which are wisely left to the last, but which will require some solution. The Bill consists of three parts. I consider that it would be difficult to add much more to Part I. of the Bill, which deals with drunkenness, but it is possible that some objection may be taken to Clause 4, which provides that where a licensed person is charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises, and it is proved that any person was drunk on his premises, it shall lie on the licensed person to prove that he and the persons employed by him took all reasonable steps for preventing drunkenness on the premises. I believe that to be a very necessary and very useful Clause. Some exception may also be taken to Clause 9 in Part II., relating to the power of the justices as to retail and off-licences. That is the only Clause in which there is at all an important alteration of the law of licensing,

and it gives the justices complete control over retail off-licences. As the Clause originally stood it was a good Clause, but it is now provided in Sub-section 4 that all existing persons who hold these licences are to have a life interest in them. I believe there are some 11,000 of these licences existing, and the result will be that magistrates will have no power over any of these off-licences except the new ones. That Clause creates a vested interest in the person holding the licence, although it does not create a vested interest in the house, and the justices will be unable to deal with any of the persons except on certain understood conditions. I desire to know why the Clause was altered after the Bill had passed the Second Reading and the Committee stages, and why the Home Secretary at the last moment accepted an Amendment which practically puts off the working of the Clause for twenty years. The noble Lord alluded to a precedent for that in the case of what are called the anti-1869 beer-houses. In the year 1869 a law was passed giving magistrates authority over all licences with the exception of the then existing beer licences. What has been the result? At the present time there are some 35,000 of the licences in existence, and when the magistrates will obtain any right or discretion to deal with them goodness only knows. When we come to the Committee stage, I shall venture to submit an Amendment to leave out Sub-section 4 of Clause 9. The question is, after all, has the Government any confidence in licensing authorities? If they believe that the licensing authorities are going to act in a tyrannical and unjust manner, why do they make a Clause giving them a nominal power which is absolutely taken away for practical purposes by a proviso which has been added? I shall certainly ask your Lordships to reject that proviso. I am glad that the Government had dealt so thoroughly with the question of the registration of clubs. When I read that part of the Bill it did seem to me that some means might be devised to prevent an objectionable club being put on the register. That, however, is a matter of detail on which I cannot say I feel very strongly. I

thank the Government for the Bill, because I believe it is a good Bill, and proceeds on right lines. They have taken up questions about which there is a general harmony of opinion, and have proceeded to deal with them thoroughly. That is a course which has been suggested several times to the Government, and I am glad they have taken that mode, which I am sure they will find successful, of dealing with the question.

LORD WINDSOR: My Lords, having introduced a Licensing Amendment Bill myself last year, perhaps I may also be allowed to express my satisfaction that His Majesty's Government have dealt with this great subject this year. I confess that the Bill which I introduced last year, and which was read a first time—I never asked your Lordships to read it a second time—did not, as this Bill undoubtedly does, follow the line of least resistance. As well as dealing with the registration of clubs, which I am glad to see is part of this Bill, my Bill raised one or two highly controversial points, such as the constitution of licensing authorities and the diminution of licences. The Government, in the present Bill, have taken those points on which there is no great difference of opinion, and I confess they are likely to accomplish much more than I could have hoped to do with my Bill. There is one point on which I venture to think an Amendment, if introduced, might improve the Bill, and that is in regard to the obligation in Clause 4 now laid upon the licence holder to prove that he and the persons in his employ took all reasonable steps to prevent drunkenness. I venture to think that the Clause might be improved by enacting in some way that there should be a regulation ordering the police, if they see a drunken person about, to enter licensed premises, to warn the licence holder. I do not suggest for a moment that it is the intention to lay traps for publicans, but I think it ought clearly to be understood that it is the duty of a constable, if he sees that a crime is about to be committed or likely to be committed, to do what he can to prevent it, and not to be content with bringing the offender to justice. I will, therefore, venture to move the insertion of a Clause which will have that effect. The importance of this was, I may mention, recognised by evidence given before the Royal Commission by

Mr. De Rutzen, who stated, in answer to a question, that he could not think that anything would be productive of greater assistance to the licence holder, or of greater protection to the public, than for a policeman, in all cases where he saw a man staggering into a public house, to give the licence holder information to that effect. With regard to the Bill as a whole, I am extremely glad that the Government have introduced it, and that they have also been able to pass it through the other House at a time when it can be dealt with without hurry by your Lordships.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I have still the same objection that I had last year to Clause 4, which deals with the burden of proof in case of drunkenness on licensed premises. I do not like the Clause as it now stands, although it may be very much improved by adopting the suggestion made by the noble Lord who has just sat down. Then, with regard to off-licences, I entirely sympathise with what was said by Lord Camperdown. I do not like the idea of a vested interest in the present off-licences, for it will create some difficulty. I am glad to see the Clause which proposes to give magistrates greater power over public houses. With regard to Clause 16, I find that in future all occasional licences are to be applied for at petty sessions, except that when no petty sessional court is to be held within seven days they can be obtained from two magistrates. I quite agree that it is far better that the licences should be signed by two magistrates rather than by only one, but the Clause may prove a hardship in country districts. In the case of all ordinary occasional licences for fairs and events of that public character, the publican as a rule makes the application at petty sessions, but in the case, for instance, of cricket matches suddenly arranged he could not know of the event long beforehand. It would be very hard if licences could not be obtained because a petty sessional court would be held within seven days of the application. For instance, if there was a petty sessional court next Monday, it would be impossible for a man to get an occasional licence from two magistrates for next Saturday. That is how I read the Clause, but I shall be glad to find that it is not so. I heartily congratulate the

Government upon bringing in the Bill. It will, I am sure, prove a very valuable measure, and I sincerely trust, with the noble Lord who moved the Second Reading, that no attempt will be made to overload it, and in that way prevent its passing into law this session.

*EARL SPENCER: My Lords, like other noble Lords who have spoken in this short debate, I have taken part on previous occasions in discussions upon this important subject, and I think it is due from me, having criticised His Majesty's Government for not having legislated upon this question, that I should express my gratification at the way in which the Government have dealt with it in this Bill. I also congratulate the right Rev. Prelate upon the success of his efforts, because, as he told the House, the greater part of the Clauses in the Government Bill now before the House came from his proposals. That, I think, is very satisfactory. This Bill, no doubt, cannot be called an heroic Bill, and some of us would have preferred legislation that went farther. But, at the same time, I think it is a very useful Bill, and we must rejoice that it has been introduced and carried through the other House. I shall not say much to-day as to the details of the Bill. I quite agree with what has been said with regard to the Clause dealing with off-licenses. I would have preferred the Clause as it was first introduced, and before the Amendment was put in. At the same time we must keep an open mind on the subject, and I think my noble friend Lord Camperdown rather exaggerated the difficulties which would have to be faced. I think the magistrates have considerably more power with regard to refusing or not renewing licences than the noble Earl has suggested. That is a most important part of the Bill and will have to be fully considered. I should like to see the provision with regard to the petty sessional clerks extended. I regret that nothing has been done with respect to the point raised by the Royal Commission as to persons interested in the liquor trade sitting upon Watch Committees. I know there are difficulties in the way, but I think they ought to have

Lord Heneage.

been overcome. When the Bill is in Committee, further discussion may be raised upon some of the points that have been alluded to. I sincerely hope that the Bill will pass its Second Reading tonight, and that when it reaches the Committee stage all these matters will receive more consideration.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

LABOUR BUREAUX (LONDON) BILL.

Bill read 3a.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 3, page 1, line 14, after 'employment' to insert 'Borough Councils shall not require that persons employed in the management of these bureaux, or persons seeking employment through the said bureaux, shall be members of a trade union.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I am afraid that trade unions have a rather irritating effect upon my noble friend. I can assure him that, so far as this Bill is concerned, if such a restriction as he wishes to guard against were placed on the action of the bureaux, they would have nobody or very few people to deal with at all. The bureaux will chiefly deal with people who do not belong to trades unions, and in my judgment the Amendment is absolutely superfluous and unnecessary.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: I understood you were going to accept it.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I look upon the words contained in the Amendment as pure surplusage, but if the Government have no objection to the Amendment, personally I do not mind its insertion.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (The Earl of DUDLEY): Lord Kenyon, who represents the Local Government Board in this House, is unable to be present to-day, and I have been asked to express the hope that is entertained by that Department that the noble Lord opposite will not accept the Amendment. I agree with what the noble Lord has said, that if these bureaux are used at all they will be used by men who are not

connected with trade unions, for trade unions have their own means of information. The labouring men who use bureaux of this kind are of the casual class, and it is, therefore, inconceivable that any Borough Council would impose a restriction of the kind contemplated by the noble Lord. With regard to the men employed to carry on and supervise the bureaux, I am informed that the Amendment would be perfectly ineffectual, because it is obvious that if a majority of a Borough Council desire to appoint as manager of a bureau a trade unionist, they can do so perfectly well without openly requiring him to be anything at all. I agree with my noble friend opposite that it is not wise to restrict the discretion of Borough Councils in this matter, and I think we might with perfect safety leave the matter in their hands.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: After what has been said I will not press my Amendment, which, I may say, I brought forward in the interests of the majority of working men. To every working man who belongs to a trade union there are nine who do not belong to any union at all. If the influence of trade unions upon Borough Councils should be such as I fear it may be, the adoption of the Amendment would prevent what would then be an admitted evil.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Bill passed.

UNIVERSITY OF WALES (GRADUATES) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Six o'clock, till Tomorrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, 14th July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL, NOTTINGHAM AND RETFORD RAILWAY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

BRISTOL CORPORATION BILL [LORDS].

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

MEDWAY AND THAMES CANAL BILL [LORDS].

As amended, considered; A Clause added; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

LONDON UNITED ELECTRIC RAILWAYS BILL [LORDS].

PICCADILLY, CITY, AND NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Second Reading postponed by the Chairman of Ways and Means under Order [1st May] till Wednesday, at the Evening Sitting.

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL [LORDS], ETC.

Ordered, That in the case of the Motions for Instructions to the Committees on the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill [Lords], the Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway (New Lines, etc.) Bill [Lords], the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 and No. 3) Bill [Lords], the Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [Lords], the Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill [Lords], and the North-West London Railway Bill [Lords], Standing Order 207 be suspended, and that the Instructions, if moved, be allowed to proceed although opposed.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means*).

LONDON UNITED ELECTRIC RAILWAYS BILL [LORDS], ETC.

Ordered, That in the case of the Motions for Instructions to the Committees on the London United Electric Railways Bill [Lords], and the Piccadilly,

City, and North-East London Railway Bill [Lords], Standing Order 207 be suspended, and that the Instructions, if moved, be allowed to proceed although opposed.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means*).

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (BARNES, ETC.) BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].

Read a second time, and committed.

WHITSTABLE IMPROVEMENT BILL [LORDS].

The Chairman of Ways and Means, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 83 relating to Private Bills, informed the House that, in his opinion the Whitstable Improvement Bill [Lords], though unopposed, ought to be treated as an opposed Private Bill.

DEVONPORT CORPORATION (WATER) BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed] ; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered tomorrow.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP M).

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE reported from the Committee on Group M of Private Bills: That, there being no further business ready for the consideration of the Committee, they had adjourned until Tuesday, 22nd July, at half-past Twelve of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill;

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13) Bill,

Chard Gas Bill, without Amendment,

Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill, Salford Corporation Bill,

Caledonian Railway Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, relating to Bermondsey (Extension), Stoke Newington, and Woolwich." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill (Lords).]

Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a certain Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Society of Accountants in Aberdeen." [Aberdeen Accountants Order Confirmation Bill (Lords).]

And also a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.)." [Glasgow Corporation (Gas, etc.) Order Confirmation Bill (Lords).]

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL.

Read the first time ; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 274.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To make further provision for Local Government in counties in Scotland ; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Maxwell, under Standing Order No. 31 ; supported by Mr. Nicol, Mr. Crombie, Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Hozier, and Mr. Renshaw ; to be read a second time upon Monday, 4th August, and to be printed. [Bill 272.]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BILLS IN PARLIAMENT) BILL.

"To amend The Local Government Act, 1888, by empowering County Councils to promote Bills in Parliament, and to amend the Borough Funds Act, 1872," presented by Mr. Long, under Standing Order No. 31 ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bills 273.]

PETITIONS.**AMEERON, SRI, AND OTHERS.**

Petition of Sri Ameroon and others, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

BAKSH, KAH.

Petition of Kahi Bakhsh, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: From Newcastle-on-Tyne; Dundee; Hull (three); and Sutton-on-Hull; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Huns-worth; Chipping Norton; Miles Platt-ing; Ripley; and Exeter (two); to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Paisley, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

HONORARY FREEDOM OF BOROUGHS EXTENSION BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

KISHORE, JUGAL.

Petition of Jugal Kishore, for re-dress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES OFFICERS' SUPERANNUATION BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Witham, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.**SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.**

Accounts presented, showing the Interest accrued in respect of the Securities standing in the names of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to the credit of the Post Office Savings Banks Fund for the year
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ended 31st December, 1901, and of the Fund for the Banks for Savings and the Fund for Friendly Societies for the year ended 24th November, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 268.]

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 8th July, 1902, declaring that Spencer James, post office sorting clerk, Exeter, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of second Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire and report what methods of treating and disposing of sewage may properly be adopted [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL [LORDS].

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th July, *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 269.]

LOCAL TAXATION LICENCES, 1901-2.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd June, *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 270.]

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 356 (Falkland Islands, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2847 to 2850 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**African Protectorates—Imperial Grants.**

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what sums.

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have been paid out of the National Exchequer by way of Grants in aid or otherwise to the Protectorates of Somaliland, British Central Africa, East Africa, and Uganda (including in the latter the railway therein), respectively, during the financial year ended 31st March, 1902.

(*Answer.*) The grants in aid of the several Protectorates are respectively as follows: Somaliland, £60,000; British Central Africa, £50,000; East Africa Protectorate, £93,000; Uganda, £172,000. It is impossible to separate the expenditure on account of that part of the railway which was in Uganda from the expenditure on account of the part in East Africa; but for the whole railway the sums advanced during the period in question to meet expenditure under the Uganda Railway Acts amount to £870,000. I may add, in order to avoid misapprehension, that since the beginning of this year the boundary between the two Protectorates has been moved, so that the railway now lies wholly in East Africa.—(*Foreign Office.*)

African Protectorates—Comparative Trade Statistics.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what were the figures of imports and exports for the financial years ending 31st March, 1901 and 1902, for the Protectorates of Somaliland, British Central Africa, East Africa, and Uganda, distinguishing in each case, so far as may be, figures arising from administration or construction of public works and those due to natural trade; and what proportion of the import and export figures arise from trade with the British Isles on the one hand, and other countries on the other.

(*Answer.*) The fullest figures available are for the year ending 31st December, 1901. The imports and exports of the East Africa Protectorate and Uganda are taken together, as there is but one Customs Department for the two Protectorates. East Africa Protectorate and Uganda: total imports, £946,800. Natural imports (that is, excluding administration and public works imports, but including specie amounting to £170,000), £585,000, of which there came from the United

Kingdom £123,000, and from India £312,000 (including all the specie). Total exports, £115,180. Practically all are consigned to Zanzibar or Aden, and it is impossible to ascertain the ultimate destination. British Central Africa: total imports, £186,000. Natural imports, 173,260, of which there came from the United Kingdom £136,260, and from India £4,000 (assuming none of the administration imports came from India). Total exports, £45,000, of which there was exported to the United Kingdom £32,000. Somaliland: In this case the figures are for the year ending 31st March, 1901. Natural imports, £394,000. Total exports, £364,000. Practically the whole trade is with Aden, and it is impossible to ascertain the ultimate origin or destination.—(*Foreign Office.*)

China—Evacuation of Tientsin by the Powers.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Chinese Government has appealed to the United States to use its good offices with the six Powers in reference to the proposed conditions for the evacuation of Tientsin; and whether the Government of the United States has made any communication to His Majesty's Government upon the subject.

(*Answer.*) His Majesty's Government are not aware that the Chinese Government have made such an appeal to the United States Government. The latter have addressed no communication to His Majesty's Government on the subject.—(*Foreign Office.*)

Foreign Trawlers in the Moray Firth.

MR. WEIR (Ross, and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate, if he will state when the Return relative to Foreign Trawlers in the Moray Firth, which was granted in March last, will be issued.

(*Answer.*) The Return referred to by the hon. Member was presented to the House on the 21st April last, and ordered to lie upon the Table. The question of printing lies between the hon. Member and the authorities of the House.—(*Scottish Office.*)

Glasgow Licensing Court—Public Money spent on Refreshments.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask the Lord Advocate, whether he is aware that at the recent sitting of the licensing court in Glasgow, composed of fourteen magistrates, refreshments at the cost of the ratepayers of over £260 were consumed during the sitting; and whether he will consider the advisability of introducing a short Bill to prevent the use of public money on similar occasions.

(Answer.) I am informed that a sum of £233 8s. 6d. was expended. It is fair to state that this sum was distributed over a period of seventeen days for the benefit of the magistrates, counsel and officials attending. I express no opinion as to whether or not such a charge upon the rates is legal as a necessary outlay incurred in the execution of the Licensing Acts. That is a matter which can be settled at the instance of any of the ratepayers in the proper court. The answer to the last paragraph of the Question is, therefore, in the negative.—(Scottish Office.)

Postmen's Summer Uniform and Headgear.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he will consider the advisability of providing postmen with lighter clothing and headgear during the present hot weather.

(Answer.) Postmen are already supplied with serge uniform for summer wear, which is made as light as possible having regard to the hard usage that it has to bear; and London postmen are provided with a light summer shako. All postmen are allowed to provide themselves with straw hats to wear on exceptionally hot days, and it is not considered that anything more is necessary.—(Post Office.)

Central Telegraph Office—Senior Telegraphists' Grievances.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that the force of senior telegraphists attached to the cable room, Central Telegraph Office, has

been reduced from thirty-one in 1898 to twenty-six; that, owing to the lack of officers of the proper rank, supervising and senior duties are developed upon officers of lower grades; and that important duties, which in the inland divisions are performed by assistant superintendents, or at least by seniors, are in the cable room performed by officers below senior rank; and will he say whether representations made during the past two years by the officers concerned have as yet received consideration.

(Answer.) The force of senior telegraphists employed in the cable room of the Central Telegraph Office in June, 1898 was thirty-one, and the number, now is twenty-seven. Members of the general body of telegraphists are not employed on supervising duties in the cable room. Some of them are, however, engaged at times on duties which may perhaps be regarded as more important than those usually performed by the general body. The representations on the subject made by the staff have received due consideration, and a memorial is about to be answered by the Postmaster General.—(Post Office.)

Civil Service—Assistant Clerks (Abstractor Class).

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether it is under consideration to improve the commencing salary and increment of the junior assistant clerks (abstractor class); and to what extent, if any, the position of the senior assistant clerks (abstractor class) may be affected thereby.

(Answer.) A scheme has been approved, and will shortly be communicated to the Departments, improving the future increments, but not the initial salary of the new abstractor class. This will in no way affect the old abstractor class.—(Treasury.)

Volunteers in Postal Service—Camping Leave.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Volunteers employed in the postal service, who have been granted leave to attend their training

camps this year, are to be stopped in the same way as last year, the full cost of their substitutes, an amount which exceeds their regular pay for the period of absence; and whether, seeing that this same training service is now obligatory, this condition of leave will be removed.

(Answer.) Every effort consistent with the exigencies of the service is made to enable Volunteers in the post office service to attend ordinary camps of instruction, but the Department would not be justified in incurring expense in the matter. As regards Volunteers attending the special camps for a fortnight, the hon. Member is no doubt aware that whenever the officer can be spared special leave is granted without civil pay in such cases.—(Post Office.)

Irish Tea and Tobacco Duties, etc.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can explain the falling off in the amount of the Tea and Tobacco Duties in Ireland in the year ending 31st March, 1902, as shown by the Return, No. 256, just issued; and what amount does he estimate will be produced respectively by the income tax, death duties, tea, sugar, corn, and tobacco duties from Ireland during the year ending 31st March, 1903.

(Answer.) The falling off in the amount of the tea and tobacco duties contributed by Ireland in the financial year 1901-2 is due to the heavy forestalments of duty made by traders throughout the United Kingdom in the previous year in anticipation of an increase of those duties. The contributions by England and Scotland are affected by the same cause. With regard to the figures for the current year, I think it would be premature to attempt an estimate, more especially as I have recently directed some fresh inquiries to be made with a view to ascertain more accurately the proportion of the present contributions to indirect taxation in the three countries.—(Treasury.)

Railway Extension on Indian Frontiers and in Persia.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will say to what extent, as regards mileage and cost, have railway projects

in Beluchistan been entertained by the Indian Government, more especially whether sanction has been promised for the proposed line from Quetta to Nushki; what is the estimated cost per mile and total of such railway, and what liability, if any, in respect of the Indian credit will the Government of India accept on behalf of such railway outside of India; whether the Indian Government has had proposals placed before it regarding the extension through Seistan into Persia, of which project the Quetta-Nushki Railway would be the first portion; and, will he lay the correspondence between the Government of India and the projectors of railways in Beluchistan, Seistan, and Persia before Parliament at an early date.

(Answer.) Since the recent completion of the Pishin section of the State Railway from Rukh to Chaman, the only project entertained by me is the Quetta to Nushki Line, for which a provision of forty-seven lakhs has been made in the current year. The final surveys are not completed, and I cannot estimate the cost at present. The line is not outside India, Beluchistan being a protected Native Indian State. The answer to the second Question is in the negative, and to the third I can only reply that there is no correspondence of the character therein described.—(India Office.)

Council of India Appointments.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India will he state whether the appointment of the twelve members of the Council of India rests with the Secretary of State for India; and, if not, will he say by whom the appointments are made, and on whose recommendation.

(Answer.) Members of the Council of India are appointed by the Secretary of State for India.—(India Office.)

Indian Postal Savings Banks—Investment of Deposits.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, in view of the fact that deposits in the postal savings banks of India are not invested in the purchase of securities, but held as part of the balances available for the general purposes of the

Government of India, will he state where the balances are lodged, and what percentage would be available on demand.

(*Answer.*) The balances of the Government of India are held in the Public Treasuries and in the Presidency banks. They are all at the free disposal of the Government of India, and they exceed by several millions sterling the amount of the balances at the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks.—(*India Office.*)

**Royal College of Science, Ireland—
Teaching of Electrical Engineering.**

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the fact that the chair of mathematics has been abolished in the Royal College of Science, Ireland, he will consider the advisability of making provision for the teaching of electrical engineering in the said college.

(*Answer.*) Provision for the teaching of electrical engineering in the Royal College of Science has been decided upon.—(*Irish Office.*)

**Irish Intermediate Education Board
—Science Syllabus.**

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state who is responsible for the framing of the Intermediate Science Syllabus; whether university professors in Ireland were consulted regarding it; and whether he will consider the advisability of appointing a Commission consisting of university professors or men of acknowledged standing in science to consider the matter.

(*Answer.*) The Science Syllabus adopted by the Board of Intermediate Education was framed by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction upon the advice of its own professional experts. The Department did not consult university professors, and sees no necessity for recommending the appointment of a Commission to consider the matter as suggested.—(*Irish Office.*)

Labourers' Cottages in Cavan Union.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, is he aware that dissatisfaction exists owing to the delay in building labourers' cottage in Cavan Union; and will he state whether the delay in erecting these cottages is caused by the rural District Council or the Local Government Board.

(*Answer.*) The inquiry into the scheme promoted by the council was held in December last. It has since been occupied in the preparation of the preliminaries essential to the making of the Provisional Order. These preliminaries were only completed on the 8th instant and the Order will probably be issued this week. There has been no unnecessary delay on the part of the Local Government Board, and it is not in a position to say that there has been any undue delay on the part of the council.—(*Irish Office.*)

Balaclava Veteran George Maughan.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that George Maughan, formerly Sergeant in the Inniskilling Dragoons, who was wounded in the thigh at the battle of Balaclava, was present at Inkerman, and has a clasp for Sebastopol, subsequently serving for five years in India during the Mutiny, has forwarded a medical certificate to the War Office showing that he is suffering from chronic valvulous disease of the heart, varicose veins accompanied by ulceration, inguinal hernia, and, chronic rheumatism, due to hardships and exposure during his term of service as a soldier; and, seeing that this man has been informed that his application cannot be entertained for an increase of his pension of 9d. per day, as there is no official record of his wound, and the increase of pensions being limited to soldiers who have been wounded, or who have been discharged for disability due to service, whether, in view of the medical certificate, an exception can be made in this case, and the pension augmented.

(*Answer.*) I am afraid it is impossible to do anything more for this old soldier.

He is in receipt of the full campaign pension of a soldier of his service, and there is no official evidence that his present infirmities are due to service which terminated thirty-seven years ago. I must further point out that in his claim he admits that he was not medically treated for the slight wound which he received at Balaclava. He was discharged after twelve years at his own request.—(*War Office.*)

War Office—Abstractor Clerk's Compulsory Retirement.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will lay upon the Table the Minutes and Correspondence on which full consideration was given to the case of the efficient abstractor clerk compulsorily retired at sixty on £30 ls. 7d. a year, he having at the time less than forty years service for superannuation.

(*Answer.*) No, Sir. It would be quite contrary to all precedent to do so.—(*War Office.*)

Education Bill—Orphan Asylums, etc.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the obligation of the local education authority, under Clause 8 of the Education Bill, to maintain and keep efficient all public elementary schools within their area, will apply to orphan asylums and similar boarding institutions, which are public elementary schools; or, if the obligation in such cases is to be a limited one, how it is proposed to define the extent of the powers and duties of the local education authority with respect to institutions of this character.

(*Answer.*) The Question, no doubt, raises a point of some importance, which, however, has not escaped the attention of the Government. The discussion upon it can best be taken during the consideration of Clause 8.—(*Treasury.*)

Printing of Parliamentary Papers, Reports, etc.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether he will state, after consulting, if necessary, the authorities of the House, who is

primarily responsible for giving the orders for printing, and what is the procedure in connection with Parliamentary Papers and public documents of the following nature: when orders have been given by the House for their printing; Papers laid before the House by Command; Papers laid before the House by Statute; Reports of and Papers connected with Royal Commissions.

(*Answer.*) The Votes and Proceedings and the Journals of the House and the Proceedings of Grand Committees and certain Papers of an analagous kind are printed under the directions of Mr. Speaker by the printers appointed by him for that purpose pursuant to the Order of this House. Bills for both Houses are printed under a contract with the Stationery Office, which includes also the preparation of drafts of Government Bills, but during their passage through Parliament they are corrected for the Press by the authorities of the two Houses. Acts of Parliament are printed by the same printers under a contract from the Stationery Office. The Clerk of the Parliaments is responsible for the accuracy of the text. The printing of Papers laid by Command and of Papers laid pursuant to Statute is carried out under the directions of the Controller of the Stationery Office, but the matter is prepared and corrected for Press by the Department which lays the Papers. Reports of and Papers connected with Royal Commissions are prepared and corrected by the Secretary of the Commission acting under the directions of the Chairman. The Papers so prepared are printed to the order of the Controller of the Stationery Office.—(*Treasury.*)

Civil Servants—Treasury Minute on Participation in Public Controversies.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will cause the Treasury Minute, relating to the participation of civil servants in public controversies, to be printed as a Parliamentary Paper.

(*Answer.*) The only Treasury Minute on [this subject was presented to the House in 1884, as Command Paper No. 4,229.—(*Treasury.*)

(2.15.) *QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.***India and the Imperial Institute.**

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state the total amount of money which up to the present time has been paid from the Indian revenues to the Imperial Institute; whether any payment of a similar character is now made from those revenues and to what amount; whether the Indian revenues are charged with any part of the salary of any persons engaged in duties connected with the Imperial Institute; and, if so, what is the amount of such charge.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The total sum paid from Indian revenues to the Imperial Institute up to March 31st, 1902, was £16,911. This represents the aggregate of annual grants made to the Institute since 1891 for the maintenance of the Indian section. The present annual grant is £1,725, but for 1902-3 only £400 additional has been granted to meet exceptional charges. From the annual grant the Institute pays the salaries of the curator and staff of the Indian section, the total amounting to £830 a year. No other charge on account of salaries of persons employed in the Institute falls on Indian revenues.

Indian Currency—Closing of the Mints in 1893.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the condition of India's manufacturing and agricultural industries, as affected by the competition of silver-using countries and aggravated by the recent serious depreciation of silver, he would recommend the institution of an inquiry into the action and effects of the currency system promulgated in 1893.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The effect on industry and agriculture in India of the closing of the Indian Mints in 1893 was one of the subjects considered by Sir H. Fowler's Currency Committee, which reported in July, 1899. That Committee did not support the view which is suggested in the hon. Member's Question, and no facts have since been brought to my notice which invalidate this conclusion.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON asked whether the noble Lord was aware that several large cotton mills in Bombay were on the verge of bankruptcy, and that tea and kindred interests in India were sore pressed, and had difficulty in holding their own in foreign markets.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I understand that these allegations are made, but I am sure that on examination it will be found that the state of things referred to cannot be attributed to the closing of the Mints in 1893.

India Office Coronation Reception.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether Lord Curzon was consulted as to the expenses of the reception at the India Office in connection with the Coronation Day, charged on the Indian Budget; if so, what reply he gave; whether the Secretary of State for India himself decided that the expenses of the reception should be thrown on the Indian Budget; and whether any opportunity will be given to this House to express its opinion on the matter.

LORD G. HAMILTON: My answer to the first Question is in the negative. The Secretary of State has no power to put a charge upon the revenues of India except with the assent of a majority of the Council of India. The discussion on the Indian Budget will take place as usual this year, and any Member of the House can then direct attention to any item of expenditure to which he objects.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Then do I understand that this was done by a majority of the Council?

LORD G. HAMILTON: No, the decision was absolutely unanimous.

Yehti.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has received any information in regard to the hoisting of the French flag at Yehti, a fishing bay between Macao and Canton.

***THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS** (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): We are informed that the report that the French flag has been hoisted at Yehti has no foundation.

Omnibus Accidents in the Metropolis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in view of recent accidents to omnibuses licensed by the police, one of which occurred as recently as Wednesday the 2nd instant, whereby, through the overturning of an omnibus in St. John's Wood Road, several persons were injured, will he direct an inquiry into the subject with a view to ascertain the cause of such frequent accidents.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT** (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): I do not understand the hon. Member's reference to the frequency of omnibus accidents. There have only been two such accidents recently. One was caused by the omnibus being carelessly driven against a lamp-post; the other—to which apparently the Question specially refers—by reason of an axle breaking. Inasmuch, however, as the London General Omnibus Company, to whom the omnibus in question belonged, make every endeavour to get the best axles obtainable, it is difficult to imagine what more can be done. Considering the number of omnibuses running every day, accidents are remarkably few.

MR. WEIR: Will some inquiry be made into the abominable state of the roads between—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Coronation Stand near Westminster Bridge.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in view of the order of the House to the police to keep the approaches to the House of Commons free of access for Members, and of the fact that the approach to the subway entrance to the House is at present blocked by the erection of a stand at the end of Westminster Bridge, adjacent to the statue of Boadicea, whether he will take steps to have this obstruction removed.

*MR. RITCHIE: The Sessional Order to the police does not appear to me to apply to a stand of this nature, which was lawfully erected and is not under the control of the police.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN: Who is responsible for the erection of this stand? What is the use of the subway if it is to be thus blocked?

*MR. RITCHIE: It is the duty of the police to see that hon. Members have free access to the House. Of course that does not mean that they have control of the buildings erected under powers possessed by local authorities.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): But we have no access at present to Palace Yard except by the carriage way.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Automatic Railway Couplings.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether a recent invention for the construction of automatic couplings for railway trucks and similar vehicles has been brought to his notice; and whether, in view of the official returns of calamities to railway servants through coupling during the last five years, he will give his consideration to the invention in question.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): Several inventions of this character have recently been seen by the officers of the Board of Trade. If the one to which the hon. and gallant Member refers is fitted on a train of ordinary goods waggons, so that it can be tested in working, I will direct an Inspecting Officer of the Department to be present at the trial.

Passenger Accommodation on Railways.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the President to the Board of Trade whether, seeing that the Cheap Trains Act, 1883, gives him power to inquire only into the question whether the proportion which the existing accommodation for passengers, at fares not exceeding the rate of one penny a mile, bears to the total existing

accommodation for all classes of passengers is a sufficient proportion, he will consider the advisability of introducing a short amending Bill to give power to the Board to make inquiry into the question of the sufficiency of the total accommodation for each class of passengers.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I see no sufficient reason for legislation in the direction indicated by this Question.

Park Deer Forest, Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the deer forest of Park, Lewis, Ross-shire, which contains upwards of 75,000 acres, is quoted in the amended Deer Forest Return, 1899, as containing no more than 41,913 acres; and will he take steps to have some fresh estimate of the acreage obtained.

***THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire):** I have nothing to add to the answer given to the hon. Member on Thursday last.†

MR. WEIR: But does not the Return, show 35,000 less than the actual number of acres? How was it obtained?

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** I do not know what the hon. Member's figures are based on. Ours are based on a Return given to the Assessor by the Factor. If a more accurate Return is needed, it would require a survey, and my noble friend and I hold that no public purpose would be served by ordering one. I can give no further information on the subject.

Scottish Equivalent Grant.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he can now state whether the Government intend to apply the Scottish equivalent of the English Educational Grant of £900,000 to educational purposes in Scotland; and, if so, in what manner it will be applied.

***MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY:** It has already been stated that the just claims of Scotland arising out of the additional grant to England will be

duly considered. But it would be premature at present to make any statement as to the amount or application of any additional grant.

Crown Salmon Fishings in Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury in view of the fact that, on the 22nd October, 1900, Crown salmon fishings *ex adverso*, the southern to the north boundary of the lands of Flowerburn, in the parish of Rosemarkie, Ross-shire, were leased to James Douglas Fletcher, Esquire, for ten years from Martinmas, 1900, at an annual rental of £1, will he state whether the fact that a lease of these fishings was open to public tender was advertised in the Press; and, if so, will he state on what dates, and in what papers, the advertisements appeared.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): An advertisement as to the letting by public tender of various salmon fishings belonging to the Crown in Scotland, including those referred to in the Question, was inserted in the *Scotsman* on 2nd, 9th, 13th, and 23rd June, 1900; in the *Glasgow Herald* on 8th, 15th, and 22nd June; in the *People's Journal* on 8th June; and in the *People's Weekly News* on 15th June. The advertisement was also at about the same time inserted in various local papers published in each of the Counties in which the salmon fishings advertised were situate, including the following, viz.:—the *Dingwall Journal* on 8th and 15th June; the *Dingwall North Star* on 14th and 21st June; the *Dingwall Northern Weekly* on 7th, 14th, and 21st June; the *Inverness Chronicle* on 13th June; the *Inverness Courier* on 8th June; and the *Invergordon Times* on 20th June.

Phoenix Park, Dublin—Treasury Grant in lieu of Rates.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he has yet been able to examine into the proposed stoppage by the Treasury of the Grant in lieu of rates payable in respect of the Phoenix Park to Dublin County Council; and, if so, will he state the result of his inquiry.

† See preceding volume, page 1378.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): Yes Sir, I have carefully examined into this matter, which was brought under my notice by the hon and learned Member. I find that, in consequence of a decision given by the House of Lords in 1897, the Treasury contributions in lieu of rates on the Royal Parks in London and Edinburgh have been stopped. The Phoenix Park appears to be in this respect in precisely the same position as these parks: and I think it is only fair that the similar contributions in respect of that portion of Phoenix Park which is unenclosed and open to the public (including park-keepers' lodges, etc., connected therewith) should also cease.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Has the right hon. Gentleman any objection to allowing the question whether the Brockwell Park Act applies to the Phoenix Park to be tested by a Petition of Right?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That would hardly depend on me.

Foyle and Bann Salmon Fisheries.

MR. SETON-KARR (St. Helen's): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that over 100 drift nets, decided by the House of Lords in May, 1900, to be illegal, are now being used on the coast of Ireland, off the mouths of the rivers Foyle and Bann, for the capture of salmon, which nets form an obstruction for over seventy miles; and, seeing that the Conservators of the Londonderry district are now practically powerless to take any steps to enforce the law as to the weekly close time, which has been openly disregarded, owing to want of funds and assistance from His Majesty's coastguards, whether the Government propose to take any, and, if so, what steps to put down the use of drift nets and to enforce the observance of the weekly close time.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The decision of the House of Lords referred to was given in a Scotch case. The Salmon Fishery Laws of Scotland rest on an entirely different basis from those of Ireland (there being

no common law right of salmon fishing in Scotland). This method of fishing is a source of livelihood to perhaps 1,500 of the poorer class of fishermen on the Irish coast. The use of drift nets has been in many cases regulated by bye-law, and has been undisputed for about forty years. The obligation of seeing that the weekly close time is observed rests with Boards of Conservators.

MR. SETON-KARR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Conservators asked for a gunboat to protect these fisheries and were refused?

MR. ATKINSON: Among the many things the Irish Government is responsible for, gunboats are not included.

Irish Commercial Fisheries.

MR. SETON-KARR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a Bill has been introduced into this House, at the instance of the owners of commercial fisheries in Ireland, to carry out the recommendations of the Lord Lieutenant's Inland Fishery Commission of 1899; and whether the Government will either give facilities for the consideration of this Bill, or will themselves introduce a Bill carrying out the said recommendations.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): The subject dealt with by this Bill is of great importance, but I see no prospects of proceeding this session, with any further legislation of this kind, which is contentious in character.

Irish Equivalent Grants.

MR. MOONEY (Dublin Co., S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is now in a position to make a statement as to the reasons why equivalent grants are being withheld from certain technical schools in Ireland contrary to the undertaking given in the circular issued by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland).

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): No, Sir, not at present.

Wicklow Magistracy.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of Roman Catholic magistrates in the County of Wicklow, and the number of magistrates who are not Roman Catholics.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): Exclusive of ex-officio Justices of the Peace, the total number of Justices in Wicklow is 127, of whom twenty-three are believed to be Roman Catholics.

Land Purchase in County Wicklow.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of tenants in the County of Wicklow who have purchased their holdings since 1890, the total acreage of the land purchased, the amount of rent which had been paid before purchase, and the amount of the annual instalments now paid by the purchasers, the average number of years purchase, the names of the landlords who have sold to their tenants, and the number of acres sold by each landlord.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): The number of tenant purchasers is 318; the acreage purchased, 21,834; the rental prior to purchase was £13,227; the purchase money advanced amounted to £251,295, representing nineteen and a fifth years purchase; the annuities amount to £10,051. The information desired by the last two queries could not conveniently be given in the form of an answer to a Question. It will be found in the Returns annually presented to Parliament pursuant to Section 33 of the Act of 1891.

Trinity College (Dublin), Estates in County Kerry.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that rents fixed in 1898 in the Cahirciveen Union, County Kerry, Trinity College, Dublin, being the landlord, are still under appeal; and whether he can state approximately when the Land Commission will sit to dispose of these cases.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): There are no appeals pending from fair rents fixed in 1898. But there are nine cases where appeals are pending from Orders made in 1900. These will probably be in the next list of appeals for hearing at Killarney, but a date for a sitting there has not yet been arranged.

Tullyhogue Disturbance.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Very Rev. Canon Rice, P.P., the Lady Superioress of the Convent of Mercy, and two companion nuns, were attacked on Sunday evening the 6th instant, near the village of Tullyhogue, and the carriage in which they were travelling stoned; and will he say what steps have been or will be taken against the persons making this attack.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): One stone, I am informed, was thrown at the carriage. The act was committed, it is believed, by a drunken person whose name the police have and whom they hope to make amenable.

Irish Technical Schools—Discontinuance of Equivalent Grant.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the technical schools in Ireland were established on the conditions under which the equivalent grant was to be continuous, and that the result of the discontinuance of this grant will be to close many technical schools in Ireland; and whether, under these circumstances, this matter will be reconsidered by the Government.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): As I have stated, this matter is now being considered.

Case of Stephen Kirby.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork Co., Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 30th June a tramp named Stephen Kirby, an ex-member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was

arrested for having abused a servant in the employment of Dr. R. R. Leader, J. P., Millstreet, on being refused alms; and that he was immediately taken before Mr. H. W. Leader, J. P., a cousin of Dr. Leader's, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour, and to a further term of four months imprisonment in default of finding bail; will he state how long Mr. H. W. Leader has been a justice of the peace, and how often has he adjudicated at petty sessions; and why this man Kirby was not charged before the ordinary Court instead of being dealt with summarily.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): Kirby was arrested on the complaint of Dr. Leader and charged with begging. The case was dealt with out of petty sessions, under the provisions of Sections 8 and 22 of the 14 and 15 Vict. cap. 93. by Mr. W. H. Leader, who sentenced Kirby to a month's imprisonment with hard labour. Mr. Leader, is in no way related to Dr. Leader. A second charge was preferred against Kirby for having used opprobrious and abusive language towards Dr. Leader's daughter and servant. For this he was ordered to give sureties for his good behaviour, in default of which he was committed to prison for three months. Mr. Leader was appointed to the commission of the peace four years ago. He is not a frequent attendant at the Millstreet petty sessions. It is competent to a justice to deal with cases of the kind mentioned out of petty sessions. It is not known whether Kirby served in the Constabulary.

Ex-Sergeant Sheridan.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give the date when Sergeant Sheridan, recently dismissed the Royal Irish Constabulary for committing and inciting to the commission of felony, entered the constabulary force; whether he can give the names of the counties and police districts in which Sheridan was stationed, with the dates in each case; and, if Sheridan served in more than one county, will he state for what reason he was transferred from one county to another.

MR. ATKINSON—(for Mr. WYNDHAM): The earlier part of the Question does not represent the facts accurately. Sergeant Sheridan was not dismissed recently for inciting to felony. He was removed from the force on the 9th February, 1901, for supporting a charge against a tramp named Ryan by evidence so unsatisfactory and conflicting as to render his further retention in the force undesirable in the interests of the public. He entered the force on the 20th December, 1880, and was allocated from the depot to the County Limerick on 26th April 1881, in which county he was stationed in the following districts: Limerick from 26th April, 1881, to 30th April, 1885; New Pallas from 1st May, 1885, to 30th September, 1885; Limerick from 1st October, 1885, to 31st October, 1888; New Pallas from 1st November, 1888, to 30th June, 1889; Limerick from 1st July, 1889, to 31st July, 1893; Abbeyfeale from 1st August, 1893, to 28th February, 1894; Bruff from 1st March, 1894, to 30th November, 1894; Rathkeale from 1st December, 1894, to 31st March, 1895; Abbeyfeale from 1st April, 1895, to 30th April, 1896; Bruff from 1st May, 1896, to 30th May, 1898. He was transferred, on marriage, to the Ballinamore District, County Leitrim, on 1st June, 1898, where he served until 30th June, 1900. On the 1st July, 1900, he was transferred, on his own application, to the County Clare. He was stationed in the Corofin district until 8th October, 1900, and in the Ennistymon district from 9th October, 1900, to 9th February, 1901.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Was he transferred from one county to another, and, if so, why?

MR. ATKINSON: He was transferred from Limerick to Leitrim on his marriage.

New College of Science for Dublin.

MR. MOONEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if the architect for the proposed new college of science in Dublin has yet been appointed; and, if so, will he state the name of the gentleman.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I am not in a position to make any statement until I see whether it is possible to make progress with the Bill. If the Bill passes through Committee I shall be prepared to announce the intention of His Majesty's Government on the Third Reading.

Irish Board of Works.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state how many employees under the Irish Board of Works have salaries above £400 a year, how many of them are Roman Catholics, and whether any Roman Catholics have been appointed or promoted within the last ten years to positions bearing salaries over £400 a year.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The number of persons employed under the Irish Board of Works at salaries above £400 a year is thirteen. I have no knowledge of their religious beliefs, and must decline to make any inquiry into such matters.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: Is the reason for declining to make inquiry the fact that there are no Catholics?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. It would be gross impertinence on my part to inquire at all.

Irish Postmasterships.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he can state how many vacancies have arisen in Irish postmasterships since the appointment of the present Postmaster General; and how many of those appointed to fill those vacancies profess the religious opinions of the majority of the Irish people.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The number of postmasterships which have become vacant in Ireland during the period referred to is twenty-three. The Postmaster General has no information which would enable him to state the religious belief of the officers appointed to fill the vacant offices.

MR. REDDY: Will the hon. Gentleman inquire?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Certainly not, Sir.

Telephone Service for Mallow and Tipperary.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork Co., N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether, in regard to the promised inquiry into the feasibility of extending the trunk telephone system to the towns of Mallow and Tipperary, where the trunk line is already looped in for testing purposes, and taking into consideration the fact that the extension of the trunk system to these towns will entail but little additional expense to the Post Office, he will waive the demand for a guarantee, which has hitherto been insisted on, and grant this facility.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The inquiry to which the hon. Member refers has for its object the possibility of providing a trunk telephone service at Mallow and Tipperary by means of the existing trunk line between Dublin, Cork, and Limerick without disturbing the traffic between those places. If the service can be given on this condition it is possible that no guarantee of revenue will be required. The wires are, however, not looped into the post offices at Mallow and Tipperary, although they pass through Mallow. Considerable expense will be involved in extending them to Tipperary.

Brehon Laws.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he is aware that in the last Report of the Commissioners for the Publication of the Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland, the Commissioners state that there are in other libraries tracts bearing on the Brehon Laws, which have not yet been edited or properly examined, and that the Commissioners recommend the consideration by the Government as to whether a competent scholar should be employed to visit the Continental libraries and furnish report as to any additional matter which may be extant in them; and whether he proposes to give effect to the suggestion of the Commissioners.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The Report was only presented on the 7th inst., and has not yet been issued; therefore the Government are not in a position to make any statement on the subject.

Wexford County Council and the Irish Government.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, in view of the fact that certain provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill are the result of a treaty between the County Council of County Wexford and the Irish Government, he will give facilities this week for the discussion of the Bill so as to ensure its passing this session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Baronet is hardly justified in describing the arrangement as a treaty. No doubt it is due to representations made to my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary by the local authorities. I cannot promise any particular date for the discussion, but the Government are most anxious to get the matter settled.

**RESIGNATION OF LORD SALISBURY—
THE NEW PRIME MINISTER.**

On entering the House, at half-past two o'clock, Mr. A. J. Balfour was received with loud cheers from both sides.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The period in this process of asking Questions has arrived when we become aware of the presence in the House of the First Lord of the Treasury. Perhaps I may be allowed to be guilty of the irregularity of interrupting the course of Questions by offering to him on my own part, and on that of those who act with me in politics, and I am sure on the part of a far more wide circle, including Members in every part of the House—our warm congratulations on the honour which he has received by being invited to form an Administration—and wishing him success and prosperity, not only in the formation, but in the conduct of that Administration.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can assure the House that it is not easy for me to express in adequate terms my sense of its kindness on this occasion. The right hon. Gentleman, in the words he has spoken, has really moved me more than I can well say; and the manner in which his most kind observations have been received, not only among my own friends and supporters, but among Gentlemen on the other side—with whom I am so often brought into what I hope is never unfriendly collision—I can assure them I feel most deeply. In fact, I am quite incapable of saying anything more.

At a subsequent stage,

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said: By leave of the House I think I ought to say one word, though it will only be one word, about the distinguished statesman whose services the country has lost by the new arrangement which has been entered into. It would be improper, and, indeed, impossible, for me to express my personal feelings on the subject, nor would it be any more proper, though it would be easier, to express the loss which Gentlemen on this side of the House, and the Party to which I belong, feel on the subject. But it is the glory of British statesmanship that we have never regarded our Party Leaders, because they are Party Leaders, as otherwise than representative of the country of which they are statesmen. And when I remember that Lord Salisbury has been, I think, four times Foreign Secretary, and three times Prime Minister, and that probably there has not been a man in our generation whose name has carried more weight outside this country, and who has done greater services to the State within this country, I think it will be felt that I can hardly allow the occasion to pass without expressing my deep feelings of the immense public loss which this country has sustained in his retirement from the public service.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that the feeling which he has expressed is not confined to his side of the House, nor to any particular Party in this country. The great and distinguished

statesman who has now, it appears, retired from the foremost position in the Empire under the Crown, carries with him the respect and the gratitude of his fellow-countrymen, irrespective of their political opinions. I cannot say that Lord Salisbury has ever shown any partiality towards the Party with which I am connected—but though he has often been a strenuous antagonist, and has sometimes thrown a good deal of that cold water which he is capable of throwing upon the ardent aspirations of the Liberal Party, yet I can at least say this, that in his dealings with foreign affairs and with international questions, he has, again and again, earned our applause and approval and confidence. It is a subject of deep regret to us, quite as much as to the right hon. Gentleman, if Lord Salisbury no longer takes part in the councils of the Empire.

Exchequer Grants for Education.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government have caused to be prepared any Return, Schedule, or Estimate showing the respective amounts of Exchequer grants which under their proposals will probably be given to each education authority to be established under the Education Bill; and whether he will lay such a Return, Schedule, or Estimate upon the Table of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid it would be impossible to make the Return the hon. Gentleman asked for, because the materials for it are really not complete. We made our calculations in respect of those figures on data now found in some cases to be antiquated.

Necessitous School Board Districts.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can say when an opportunity will be afforded to the House, by the introduction of the financial Resolution, to discuss the position of the necessitous School Board districts, in order to consider the financial position in those districts, under his new proposals, as compared with the existing law.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot give any pledge at present.

Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will say when His Majesty's Government proposes to take steps to secure the ratification by this House of the Brussels Sugar Convention.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The proceedings to which the hon. Gentleman refers will have to be taken before the conclusion of the session, though not, I think, before the conclusion of this position of the session; but, at any rate, I cannot make any announcement at the present moment.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I should like to ask a question as to the course of business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I informed the House last week, my intention was that the Education Bill should be taken today and tomorrow, and Supply on Wednesday and Thursday. I have since learned that there has been put down for the evening sitting on Wednesday a group of Private Bills which will absorb the greater part of that sitting. It so happens that Private Bills have been put down once or twice on Supply nights, and as I do not think that is quite fair to the House, I propose, under these circumstances, to take the Education Bill on Wednesday, and the Supply on Tuesday and Thursday. On Tuesday the English and Scotch Education Votes will be taken, and on Thursday the War Office Vote. On Friday the consideration of the Water Bill will be resumed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

They have agreed to Midwives Bill.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 6 :—

(2.45.) MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): Before the Amendment standing in my name is passed over, I wish to ask if one I have further down on the Paper—

"In Clause 6, page 2, line 33, leave out from 'have' to 'the' in line 35,"

is in order. It is of a more limited character than my first one, which proposes to insert the words—

"Except in the case of schools provided by a School Board."

*THE CHAIRMAN: The second Amendment would not make sense unless other words were inserted. Does the hon. Member propose to do that?

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: No, Sir.

*THE CHAIRMAN: But standing alone the words would not read.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS: The words I want to leave out are—

"The powers and duties of School Boards and School Attendance Committees under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870-1900,"

and that raises a question of great importance, although of a much more limited character than the first Amendment, which I understand you have ruled out of order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If the hon. Member will bring up an amended Amendment I will consider it.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said that the object of the Amendment he now moved was to attempt to embody in the Bill the principle of the devolution of the powers of the Education Department to the local authority, which was suggested by the Government in the Bill of 1896. After the discussion of last week it was obvious that the whole position assumed a different aspect. The principle of an *ad hoc* authority had now been set aside, and it was desirable, in the interests of educational efficiency, to extend as far as possible the powers of the new authority, in order to make it effective for the co-ordination of education and to render all branches of education absolutely and permanently efficient. He did not wish

to raise on that Amendment the question of the control or management of denominational schools, he wished simply to touch the question of the responsibility of the local authority for the efficient working of denominational schools in the new position in which they were placed. In this Bill an enormous boon and advantage was being conferred on the voluntary or denominational schools by placing them upon the rates, and they certainly ought to demand some *quid pro quo* for the local authority in respect of it. It used to be urged again and again, although he could scarcely understand the sincerity of those who urged it, that the control of the Education Department was quite sufficient popular or public control of the denominational school system of this country to justify placing them on the grants or on the rates. But it seemed to him that the principle which the Government set before the House in 1896 was a sound one to follow, in order to meet the present situation, and to secure in the public interest a *quid pro quo* for the enormous boon granted to denominational schools under the Bill. If there was a strong case for devolution in 1896, there was a far stronger case now that the rates were in question. He had expressly drawn his Amendment on moderate lines, and had only proposed that the Board of Education should have a gradual power of devolution; in fact, it was a more limited proposal than that of the Government in 1896. In addition to the question of the efficiency of the voluntary schools, he would draw attention to the absolute necessity of the local authority having more power with a view to the co-ordination of all branches of education in the area. They ought not only to co-ordinate education, but they ought to be in a position to provide against wasteful expenditure on small and inferior schools. If they were to have a real educational authority, the county authority ought to be in a position to form a general scheme of education for the whole of its area, to deal with inferior, inadequate, and improper schools, to impress on managers the necessity of giving up some schools and consolidating others, and otherwise to provide for the efficiency of education in the district. Obviously this co-ordination was most

needed in the rural districts, and they would be able to do nothing for education in such districts unless there was a power of reorganisation and consolidation such as he suggested. For these objects there must be some devolution of the powers of the Board of Education, especially in dealing with this class of district. The Vice-President of the Council in 1896, in defending the proposal then made, said that the work of the Department had become unbearable—and that the paramount Education Authority constituted under that Bill in every county and county borough was to be “a sort of separate Education Department for each county.” And further—

“It is proposed to decentralise entirely the administration of school grants by the Education Department—to throw upon these bodies the duties of administering the Parliamentary grant. The general inspection of schools will, of course, be undertaken also by the county authority, and the Committee of Council will only have inspectors who will visit the schools from time to time to see that the county education authority is properly fulfilling its duties and the education is up to the proper standard.”

He even went so far as to encourage each county to draw up its own type of Education Code. That might be going too far, and acting too precipitately, but he would only say, looking to Clause 8, that he saw there no powers which were sufficiently wide, detailed, and definite, to secure the object he had in view, and which the Vice-President of the Council had in view in his more sweeping proposal in 1896. Therefore he wished to press his Amendment on the Committee. He was bound to say that the Bill of 1896 was a more liberal and more progressive measure in many respects than the present. There was great danger in the present Bill that the local educational authority would not have the power or the opportunity of really co-ordinating or developing education to the highest point, or of curing the evils of unsatisfactory tendencies in itself. He asked the Government to deal with this proposal in a broad spirit. He thought his suggestion merited consideration, because it did not insist on an immediate and sweeping devolution of the powers of the Board of Education. In some counties or county boroughs there would be an immediate devolution of some important powers, and in other counties the devolution should be more gradual and tentative.

VOL. CXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 32, after ‘shall,’ insert ‘undertake, on such terms as may be from time to time agreed on between the authority and the Board of Education, the administration on behalf of the Board of all or any of the duties of the Board in respect of money provided by Parliament and in respect of certifying the efficiency of schools.’”—(Mr. Channing.)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University), said that as he understood, the hon. Member proposed to grant to the local authorities on elementary education proposed to be set up by this Bill, certain provisions which it was intended to bestow on the local educational authorities by the Bill of 1896. He would be glad to consider a proposal of that sort with the greatest possible goodwill, but, if his memory did not betray him, the proposal made in the Bill of 1896 was very vehemently opposed by his predecessor in office, and by the generality of the hon. Members opposite, including the hon. Member himself. The fact really was that the condition of the present Bill was wholly different from that of 1896, and that very admirable provision of the 1896 Bill referred to by the hon. Member did not apply at all either to the machinery of the present Bill or to the present condition of the relations between the Board of Education and the elementary schools. In the first place, in 1896 the local authorities were not made the managers of the new schools, but rather the controlling body. There were not only School Board schools, but private schools under voluntary management to the number of 20,000, and if the Bill had become law it would not have lessened that number. Therefore, the Board of Education would have had to deal under the Bill of 1896 with an immense number of independent bodies of school managers. Under the present Bill the Board of Education would have only to deal with the number of local authorities for elementary education which at the maximum amounted to little more than 200. [Dr. MACNAMARA: 338.] Well, 338; that was a very much less number than 20,000. Not only that, the relation between the Board of Education and the managers of schools.

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was very much simpler than in those days. In those days schools were inspected by the Department, and grants were made for all sorts of different subjects, and there was a great deal of detailed work in fixing the amount of the grants. Now a block grant was given at so much per scholar in every school in average attendance, and all that the Board of Education had got to do was to see that the attendance was maintained and that the school was in an efficient and satisfactory state. He did not see how those simple but very important duties which the Board of Education had to perform could be conveniently delegated. He dared say that it might be possible, in conjunction with the local authorities, to make some new regulation as to the average attendance. While they had the responsible local authorities to deal with, they would be able to simplify the duty of the Board of Education in regard to attendance, but that could be done without any authority of the kind proposed in the hon. Member's Amendment by Act of Parliament. It only required an alteration of the Rule in the Code, and that could be done by degrees more satisfactorily than by Act of Parliament; although he dared say that some of these functions could be, with great advantage, delegated by the Board of Education to the local authorities. But there was a great function which the Board of Education ought not to delegate to anybody. It was absolutely necessary that when they spent money in elementary education the schools should be efficient, and that efficiency was only to be obtained by a proper and intelligent system of continuous inspection by properly organised inspectors from the Central Board. It was for the interest of the local authorities themselves that this impartial inspection should go on, because all the results of that inspection would be communicated to them and they could have no better information as to the efficiency of the teaching in their schools, than the reports of the inspectors of the Central Board, properly organised, as he hoped they would be.

Sir John Gorst.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said while he sympathised with the motive of the hon. Member in moving his Amendment, he did not think it was necessary to press it. Under Clause 8, the local authorities would have power over the whole of the schools in their area not now possessed, in two ways. First of all, they could inspect all the aided schools. In the second place, there would be a public audit of the accounts of all the schools. The efficiency of a school depended on two factors—the efficiency of the teaching and the adequate expenditure of money; and when the local authority was able to assure itself that all the public money given to denominational schools was spent for the purpose for which that money was given, they should see a considerable improvement in the efficiency of these schools. Again, it was almost as important that the inspection from the Central Board should go on concurrently with the local inspection. He submitted to his hon. friend that if he desired to realise the standard of efficiency which ought to be, he ran a risk that that would not be obtained if all the powers were delegated to the local authority. Experience in the past has proved that the local authorities had not been sufficiently keen in securing a full average attendance, and not particularly eager to fix a high standard of efficiency, as the parents who had children at school were anxious to get them to leave school and go to work. Pressure, therefore, might be brought to bear on the local authorities to spend less money on the schools by reducing educational efficiency in the locality. At present, if a School Board attempted to lower the efficiency of the schools in order to lower the rates, that Board would be fined. It should depend upon the standard set up from Whitehall, and maintained at as high and fair a level as the joint wisdom of the inspectors can devise. The duty of testing and deciding as to efficiency must be placed outside the locality. When his hon. friend proposed that the local authority should take over those powers which were now vested in the central authority, and which ought not to be relaxed, he thought he was going too far.

(3.20.) MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) thought his hon. friend the Member for West Nottingham had rather misread the Amendment, which did not contemplate that the central authority should let go all control. The principle was the same as that which was introduced in the Bill of 1896, and it was the best thing in that measure. If that principle had been given to Wales they would have made very good use of it. Their secondary and higher education was worked on the principle of this Amendment. The central authority still had every control, and if they found that secondary education was poor they could withhold the grant, and bring the most effective pressure to bear to keep the schools up to the mark. That was what his hon. friend contemplated in his Amendment, which devolved upon the local authority greater powers for organising education, and not to reduce the level and status of education. What the Amendment aimed at was to alter the direction of educational activity and energy, in any one particular county. In every country in the world where education had been a success it was organised upon the principles of local autonomy. In Germany or Switzerland the Government did not lay down the general standard. Each canton organised its own education, and the central Government only had financial control. The curriculum of the school was not prepared by the central authority, and the same applied to the United States, where the education was almost entirely in the hands of the State authorities. His hon. friend simply proposed by his Amendment a compromise between the United States system and the present system in this country. The complaint was not that they did not spend sufficient money, but that they did not get the kind of education that was applicable to the needs of particular districts. They got an education given in a rural district which trained the children for town life, and children were flocking from the villages to the towns. They should not merely train children for a county life, but also develop in them an aptitude and taste for a country life. How could the Board of Education prepare a curriculum for an agricultural county like

Somerset or Gloucestershire. Why not leave it to those counties to lay down the general lines upon which education should proceed there? [Cries of Oh, Oh!"] Apparently his hon. friends had no confidence in Gloucestershire. They ought to say to those counties—"These are the grants we make you, and you can spend them in any way that trains them to become good citizens of Somerset or Gloucestershire." That was what they wanted, and not attempts to make a Cockney out of a Somerset man. It had been said that Somerset would probably use the money for putting down swine fever, or something of that kind, but if they provided that the money must be spent upon education then each county would form its own plans and draw up its own curriculum. In that way they would get what the Prime Minister indicated in his speech, namely, the training of every intellect in order to bring out its most efficient qualities. The primary system was the only failure in Wales, and had been denounced by the hon. Member for North Camberwell. But while the higher and secondary education, as organised by themselves, produced the best results, the primary system, as turned out by the right hon. Gentlemen at Whitehall, gave the same training to a Welsh child as to a child living in Whitechapel.

SIR JOHN GORST: If that is so it is the fault of the local education authority, because the curriculum is drawn up by the managers of the schools.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea, District) said that although he agreed with a good deal of what was said by the mover of the Amendment, he could not vote for his proposal as it stood. His hon. friend the Member for Carnarvon appeared to have misconstrued the effect of this Amendment, for if it were carried it would be possible for the Board of Education, by favouring a particular authority, to part with all control of the money provided by Parliament. He could not understand how anybody could defend that devolution of that kind to any local education authority should take place. How could they hand over the money voted by Parliament to one local authority without retaining any control

between it and the Board of Education? This proposal meant to transfer all the authority of the Board of Education to the local authority. He could quite understand that it might be well to group divers education authorities together, and devolve on such a general body, representing a large number of education authorities, some powers of the Education Board. He had no wish to prolong the discussion, his only reason for rising being that he did not care to oppose the Amendment of one so sincere in his devotion to the cause of education as his hon. friend, without stating the reason for his so doing.

Amendment negatived.

*DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he had considerable misgivings as to what would take place if they handed over the control of elementary education to the rural education authorities, because the past history of the agricultural communities of this country for the last thirty years did not disclose any particular zeal or enthusiasm on their part for primary education. They did well in technical education when they did not raise money from their own rates, but obtained it out of the Exchequer. The more he studied the question, the greater his misgivings became. A good deal had been said by the Prime Minister as to the irritation of Whitehall interference; but if that were abolished it would be disastrous to the children who were unhappy enough to be born in the villages of this country. He could not say what would be the effect in Wales, where the people appeared to be strongly enthusiastic in this matter, and who no doubt would carry out this power with great generosity and ardour. But that would not be the case with England. What sort of primary education would the children have meted out to them? The history of the last seventy years had been one long struggle by the local authorities in agricultural districts against the standard which Whitehall had endeavoured to hold them to. It was a good thing for the unfortunate children born in the country that there were some gentlemen at Whitehall, city bred, to look after their interests. The agricultural administrators did not see the

Mr. Brynmor Jones.

necessity for education. Right hon. Members like the Member for Thanet and the Member for Sleaford would come down and tell the House that education had done a great deal of harm; that it had depleted the country of labour. And if broad-minded men of affairs like these made such remarks as those, what would not happen in the villages? Every child ought to have a thoroughly liberal education. He repudiated the doctrine of a country education for a country child as one which was thoroughly unjust to the child; as one which ruled him down to a certain level. We had no right to rule him down. Let us give them a good and solid foundation, and then they could become agricultural labourers afterwards. He drew attention to the fact that in the agricultural counties the rural school attendance committees for many years past had the right to fix the standard for total exemption from school in the rural districts, with the result that only one fixed the Sixth Standard, 238 fixed the Fifth, and 336, or rather more than half the rural school attendance committees in the country, did not go beyond the Fourth Standard. Recent modifications of the law, largely due, he was glad to say, to the Vice-president of the Council, would, however, mend that matter. With regard to the half-time exemptions, 323 school attendance committees only fixed the Third as the Standard for half-time exemptions, whilst forty-five committees had not gone higher than Standard 2. In addition to fixing low Standards there was not a local authority which did not flagrantly disregard its own byelaws. We were now going to give autonomy. He would accept it that it was proposed to continue the Whitehall Code and inspection and the general control of the Education Department over the Government grant. But he asked not only that there should be a continuance of Whitehall control and inspection, but that that control should be strengthened and developed, so that with the additional million sterling which it was proposed to grant from State funds to primary education, further advances might be made in the character of the instruction in the interests of these village children. Many of the rural

schools were in respect of staffing, equipment, and apparatus in a shameful condition, and it was absolutely essential that the local education authorities should not be freed from the control and inspection of Whitehall in regard to these important matters.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 32, at beginning, to insert the words 'In accordance with the regulations for the time being of the Board of Trade.'"
—*Dr. Macnamara.*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(3.45.) SIR JOHN GORST thought the words of the Amendment were unnecessary. The object of the Bill was to shift the responsibility for education in the rural parts of the country to the County Councils. Those Councils were composed of gentlemen who, in a variety of ways, had shown their strong interest in education by the provision they had already made in their respective counties. There was no *prima facie* reason to suppose that the Councils would not make proper provision for elementary education, or that they would require the regulations of the Board of Education to show them what to do. He reminded the Committee that the Board of Education already possessed absolute powers in regard to elementary education in every district in the country. Decentralisation did not mean that the Exchequer were to give these local authorities money to spend as they liked. The Board of Education was to retain the whole control of the Exchequer money, and as that defrayed three-fourths of the cost of maintaining the schools the Board would be able to exercise a most powerful influence in the direction of efficiency. In the case of an inefficient school, the Board would be able to take away the grant, and thus absolutely fine the school. The Board nominally had that power at present, but it was practically impossible to use it because the inefficiency of a school was usually due to lack of funds, and to stop the grant would probably close the school altogether, or, at any rate, to render it absolutely impossible for the school to become efficient. But when the managers of the school were the

representatives of the ratepayers, and could take out of the rates the money necessary to make good the deficiency, the power to withhold the grant would be a very real power, and in the case of a really inefficient school would be exercised at once, because it would not entail the closing of the school, or even a reduction in its expenditure. It would simply throw the burden upon the ratepayers of the county, who might be trusted to take care that the County Council who represented them did not allow it to be possible for such a burden to be cast upon them. The Board of Education would thus have sufficient power to secure the efficiency of the schools, and the Amendment was really unnecessary.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) pointed out that on several occasions they had been told by the First Lord that many of the powers of the Board of Education were to be handed over to the local authorities. The Vice-President, however, had now apparently gone back on that declaration, and conveyed the idea that the Board would in the future have all the powers it had had in the past. If that was the case there would be the same inspection, the same class of control, and the same amount of correspondence between the local managers and Whitehall as in the past.

SIR JOHN GORST: I did not say anything like that.

MR. BRYCE said the managers would not be the same as the local authority, but would be under them. There would be three authorities to deal with, viz., the Board of Education, the local authority, and the managers.

SIR JOHN GORST explained that the Board of Education would not correspond with the managers of the school, but with the local authority; the managers would be the mere creatures and servants of the local authorities.

MR. BRYCE said the Committee had been led to understand that the managers, at any rate of the voluntary schools, were to have a very important

and independent position, but the Bill was so kaleidoscopic in its character that its aspect changed with every statement of the right hon. Gentleman. The questions to which answers were desired were: Would the control hitherto exercised by the Board of Education be diminished? Would the work hitherto done by the Board in the way of keeping the managers up to the mark be henceforth done by the local authorities? He understood the right hon. Gentleman to answer those questions in the negative. That was entirely different from the view given by the First Lord. The Bill had been welcomed by many Members because they thought it would lead to decentralisation, and that the Board of Education would transfer some of its powers to the local authorities. They now understood that that would not be the case. The clause was one of the most important in the Bill; it came nearest to raising the question of the relations between the local authorities and the Board of Education, but it was impossible properly to deal with either the clause or the Amendment without some further explanation. To take the one question of inspection: were the schools to be inspected by the Board of Education inspector or by the inspector of the local authority, or by both? There was the greatest difficulty in understanding what were to be the relations between the two bodies, and the present was as good an opportunity as any for the right hon. Gentleman to explain more fully the intentions of the Government.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) said the clause at first sight appeared to deal only with matters of routine, but it really raised the important question of the general relations which were to exist between the Board of Education and the local authorities, and upon that point the Committee were entitled to some further explanation. From an educational point of view, he agreed with the hon. Member for North Camberwell that in many places it would be well to keep the control practically in the hands of the Board of Education. Much of the difficulty in dealing with the various Amendments arose from the

Mr. Bryce.

fact that some Members were inclined, quite naturally, to regard one part of the country instead of looking at the country as a whole. An indication of what would happen in English counties unless the control were in the hands of the Board of Education might be gathered from the warm welcome given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Sleaford Division to the statement that the managers would be the mere creatures and servants of the local authority.

MR. CHAPLIN (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said the hon. Member was quite mistaken; he made no exhibition of feeling, either the one way or the other.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought the right hon. Gentleman indicated that he entirely agreed that that ought to be the position of the managers of the schools.

MR. CHAPLIN again dissented.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS hoped, then, that in the course of the debate the right hon. Gentleman would state what his view on the point was. The practical questions involved were very important. Were the inspectors of the Board of Education to remain in their present position?

SIR JOHN GORST: Yes.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said in that case there would be some control by the Board of Education. In the next place, was the Board of Education to frame the code?

SIR JOHN GORST: It must do.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that these matters were not clear from the words of the clause, and there were other points upon which enlightenment was sought. His view was that the Board of Education must be supreme in matters of education, and he should, therefore, support the Amendment.

(4.0.) SIR W. HART DYKE (Kent, Dartford) said they were all looking forward to having better schools, but how were they going to be procured? Where did the punitive power or compulsion come in?

With regard to the school managers, he presumed after the Act had passed they would be in very much the same position as they were at present. Under the Act of 1870, School Boards might delegate their powers of management of a school to a body of managers, and they might remove all or any of those managers if they liked.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: That refers to managers of board schools, but we are now talking of the managers of voluntary schools.

SIR W. HART DYKE replied that no doubt the system for all schools would be alike. [Cries of "No, no."] Could any hon. Member opposite quote any clause to show that there was to be a distinction drawn between the two? Hon. Members opposite had conjured up all kinds of possibilities, but they were in regard to some other Bill, and certainly did not apply to this Measure. Under this Bill he presumed that the same system would prevail for both board schools and voluntary schools, and in this matter he hoped the Committee would be guided by common sense. The responsibility could not rest alone with the local authority, and it must come home to Whitehall to control the expenditure of these vast sums of money. At Whitehall must rest the punitive power.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) contended that the question of the managers did not arise upon this clause. The intention of the Amendment was that the position should be made perfectly clear, and he could not really understand why the right hon. Gentleman should not agree to insert those words. On the Opposition side they thought the insertion of the words was desirable, and on the other side of the House they had been told by the Vice-President of the Council, that they could not possibly do any harm.

SIR JOHN GORST: I never said that. I said the words were unnecessary.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said that if the words were inserted, the power of the Education Department would

be kept up, and if an uncertainty did arise it would be because of the wide and far-reaching generalities which were used about decentralisation by the First Lord of the Treasury. When this Bill was first introduced, many hon. Members said it was a decentralisation Measure. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire said that, the County Councils were tied hand and foot by the Education Office, and then he was told by the Prime Minister that he was entirely wrong, and they had been led to believe that this principle was contained in the Bill.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) hoped the Committee would not insert the words which had been proposed, for it had not been disputed that the words were unnecessary. This clause put the local authorities in the position of the existing School Boards. The result of inserting such words was very often mischievous, because some new meaning had to be found for them, and they might place the local authorities under still further restrictions. A good deal had been said about that decentralisation contained in this Bill, but he understood that the inspectors of the Board of Education would still perform their present duties. He hoped the reports of the inspectors would be submitted to the local authority, so that they might have an opportunity of judging of the efficiency of the school. The grants would be paid through the local education authority, and if the Board of Education inspector reported that a certain school was inefficient after he had represented that fact in his report to the local education authority, the Board of Education might withhold the grant and bring pressure to bear to remedy the inefficiency.

(4.15.) **MR. ALFRED HUTTON** (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said he understood that the words which had been proposed were in the Act of 1870, and, therefore, it would be an unwise thing to deliberately leave them out in the present Act. If they were not inserted, it would give the new local authorities a kind of freedom which was not desirable. He desired the local education authorities to have plenty of elasticity, but not freedom, with regard to the standard. If there was any doubt about this point, it would be unwise to

reject this Amendment. It was more important now than it was in 1870, and for this reason: that all the grants were now capitation grants. The new grant should be a capitation grant. They were always told that the Department took some means of securing that the money did not go to the relief of ordinary subscriptions, but for the improvement of the staff or apparatus. If they were able to secure that in the past, he thought the right hon. Gentleman ought to secure that under this Act, when they were going to have twice the sum of money given as a capitation grant, the money should go to increasing the standard of education to be given in the schools. He thought that was a reasonable request. What they wanted was to have it made perfectly plain in the Act that the Department had the power of the screw to compel the authority to keep up the efficiency and the standard of education.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that they could not really ascertain what the effect of the addition of the words proposed to be inserted would be, or whether they were necessary or unnecessary, until they had a full understanding of several vague phrases which occurred in Clause 6. The effect of inserting these words after "shall" would be to finally determine the form of the Clause. The Clause said—

"The local education authority shall throughout their area have the powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900, and the control of all secular instruction in public elementary schools, whether provided by them or not."

And then the Clause went on, somewhat irrelevantly from a drafting point of view—

"And School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall be abolished in that area."

What he could not understand clearly was what was the position under the first proposition of the Clause. Did it mean that the Board of Education would be in exactly the same relation to the local authority as the Board of Education was now to the School Board?

SIR JOHN GORST: Yes.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: Very well. If that was so, the insertion of the
Mr. Alfred Hutton.

words of the Amendment might be very important. They might be necessary from certain points of view. They might materially alter the relations between the Board of Education and the local education authority by extending or restricting the powers of the Board of Education—he did not know which. If the words "subject to the regulations of the Board of Education for the time being" were inserted, obviously the powers of the local education authority would be limited.

SIR JOHN GORST said that when he answered the speech of the hon. Member for North Camberwell he had not seen its terms, the Amendment not being on the Paper. He understood that the object of the Amendment was to give more power to the Board of Education. It was in reference to that that he said it was unnecessary, and he assured the Committee that the Education Department had sufficient power to secure the efficiency of the schools. Since then he had had an opportunity of considering the actual words proposed by the hon. Member, and he thought that all this time the Committee had been discussing what was not affected by the Clause. The object of the Clause was to give the new authority "the powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900." The hon. Member for North Camberwell proposed that that should be done "subject to the regulations of the Board of Education for the time being." What would be the effect of that? The effect would be to enable the Board of Education to curtail their powers as a School Board, and to curtail their powers as a School Attendance Committee. The words of the Amendment would enable the Board of Education to modify or increase the powers of the local authority. That might be a useful provision, perhaps, for the Board of Education, but it might be utterly subversive of the real intention of the Act of Parliament. It would give the Board of Education a roving commission to modify the provisions of the Act by regulations made at their will. That was not what the hon. Member intended. He was sure the Committee would never give such powers to a

Government Department. If it were desired to give more power to the Board of Education, this Clause of the Bill was not the place in which to give it. The powers of school managers would be discussed when they came to the next Clause.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) thought the hon. Member for North Camberwell might be satisfied with the discussion which had taken place. When he heard the speech of the hon. Member, he was inclined to strongly support the Amendment. They were all agreed in the desire that education should be kept up at a higher level than it had been in some villages by the rural obscurantist School Boards and School Attendance Committees. The Vice-President of the Council had been one of the strongest critics of those reactionary bodies in the rural districts. He believed that the Vice-President would agree with the hon. Member for North Camberwell that the necessary pressure should be put on those districts. As he understood the question, the Board of Education had under this Bill fuller authority than under any previous legislation. With regard to the giving of grants, they would be perfectly entitled to withhold the grant if they were dissatisfied with a school. He understood that the additional million would also be subject in its distribution to the approval of the school by the Board of Education. If that were so, he wanted to know what good the Amendment would do. The harm it would do was that it would give the Board of Education power to interfere in the economy of a school in other subjects than the mere efficiency of the school. Roman Catholic schools would now have public support in the shape of rates instead of private subscriptions; and if the manager of a school came to him in future and asked him to interfere with the Vice-President for insisting on greater efficiency and healthiness, he could refuse to go to the Vice-President, because it would no longer be possible for managers to plead poverty, as they had done on previous occasions. He believed the Amendment would be mischievous, because subjects which should be dealt with by the local autonomous authority would be under

the regulation of the central authority. That was a depletion of local autonomy which he would not be ready to accept. He was in entire sympathy with the spirit of the Amendment, but in the circumstances he would ask his hon. friend not to press it.

DR. MACNAMARA said he understood from the Vice-President of the Council that the powers of Whitehall would be unimpaired, and that it would not be competent for the local authority to reduce the standard of education. On that understanding, he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

(4.35.) MR. HERBERT LEWIS said it might be thought that the Amendment he now moved was an Amendment more verbal than substantial. The Clause as it stood read—

“The local education authority shall, throughout their area, have the powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900.”

Now, as a matter of fact, some of these powers and duties had already been expressly abolished, and as there were certain powers under the Elementary Education Acts of 1870, 1873, and 1876, which were abolished by Section 19 and the Fourth Schedule of this Bill, it seemed to him it was absolutely necessary to insert the words he proposed, in order to make it quite clear that the powers and duties which were to be transferred to the local education authorities did not include those powers and duties which were expressly abolished by the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 32, after the word ‘shall,’ to insert the words ‘except as hereinafter provided.’”—*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.), said he hoped the hon. Member would not press his Amendment, because the Clause was perfectly clear, and the powers and duties to which the hon. Member referred would not pass to the new education authority.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that while he thought the inclusion of the words he had proposed would be an improvement, after what the right hon. Gentleman had said he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS moved the omission of the words—

“The powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee, under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900, and the.”

The object of this Amendment was to keep alive the School Boards, so far as the “powers and duties” were concerned. The Committee had already decided that there was to be one authority over the whole of education, and necessarily the School Board would be the subordinate body to the local authority. His Amendment would enable the School Boards to carry out the powers and duties assigned to them, subject to the control of the local authority.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that that question had been decided by an Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Rossendale, and could not be raised again.

MR. WALTER LONG said that there were two bodies by which the school attendance was to be supervised—the School Boards and the School Attendance Committees of the Board of Guardians. The object of the words inserted in the Clause was to make it clear that the powers and duties of the School Boards and the School Attendance Committees of the Boards of Guardians should be transferred to the new educational authority.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS asked if he was to understand that the meaning of the words in the Clause as it stood was that the local educational authority was to have control of education over all schools—whether board schools or voluntary schools?

MR. WALTER LONG: Certainly.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that his contention was that there was absolutely

no necessity whatever for the introduction of those words in the Clause, having regard to the fact that the local educational authority was to have the control of all secular instruction in the public elementary schools. Surely these words were as wide as they could possibly be made. As a matter of fact, however, he contended that all the powers and duties of the School Boards were not transferred to the local educational authority. He asked the Chairman to put his Amendment to the Committee in such a form as would not exclude other Amendments of substance lower down on the Paper.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 23, to leave out from the word ‘have’ to the word ‘the’ in line 35.”—
(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause.”

MR. WALTER LONG said that it was undoubted that if those words were omitted it would open up the question as to whether the powers and duties of the School Boards and of the Attendance Committees of the Boards of Guardians were transferred. They were quite distinctive powers.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said that if he understood the position correctly, he hoped his hon. friend would not press his Amendment, because in the rural districts they must get out of the hands of the School Attendance Committee. His absolute conviction was, from what he knew of the schools of England, that if they got a County Committee representative of a large area, they would be much more likely to improve the bye-laws securing a better attendance of scholars, than if they trusted small parochial School Boards or School Attendance Committees of the Boards of Guardians. He was not one to throw stones at the small School Boards. He had known small School Boards which had done good work, and he had known small School Boards which had done bad work, and he was bound to admit that except where they were adjacent to large towns and partook more of an urban character, small School Boards

and still more small School Attendance Committees had as a whole failed. He hoped the words would be allowed to stand as they were in the Bill, that his hon. friend would withdraw his Amendment with regard to that, and that the other points which it was desired to raise by the Amendment might be raised in another form.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON called attention to the fact that the School Boards had power to re-transfer the voluntary schools which had been transferred to them in the past. The voluntary schools so transferred were innumerable; they were unable to come up to the standard of efficiency required by the Board of Education and so were transferred to the School Board, which had not only made them efficient but had maintained them out of the rates. If the new authority were to have this power of re-transference and these schools were re-transferred, as in all probability they would be, the voluntary school managers would be thrown upon their own resources to obtain voluntary subscriptions to maintain what was now a public school maintained out of the public rates.

SIR JOHN GORST thought this question would be more properly raised under Clause 12.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON did not know how that might be. All he knew was that the School Boards had the power to re-transfer these schools, and he thought that by the new authorities they would be re-transferred wholesale. It would be in his opinion a most serious thing to re-denominationalise schools which for years had been public schools maintained out of the rates. With regard to the attendance bye-laws, it had been suggested that those were transferable to the new authorities, but he took it that one of the bright spots of this Bill was that these bye-laws were to be abolished.

SIR JOHN GORST pointed out that this was really a legal question. Bye-laws were territorial, and prevailed over certain areas in the county. When the Bill passed, the bye-laws would not be abolished, but the local authority would have power to vary them.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON asked whether this would be so, because the School Boards had no power to vary the bye-laws of the schools which came under their observation, and if all these bye-laws were transferable to the new authorities as successors to the School Boards, and had power to vary them, that would be sufficient. The School Boards had no power to vary them without the consent of the school managers, and as the School Boards under this Bill would disappear, he assumed these bye-laws would be abolished.

SIR JOHN GORST doubted whether a local authority would be so foolish as to consent to administer a hundred different sets of bye-laws. If it was a wise authority it would make, he thought, one bye-law for the whole of the county.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said if that were so, there was nothing more to be said with regard to that matter. Another power he desired to refer to was with regard to the supply of sufficient accommodation by the Department. At present the Education Department could compel the School Board to find sufficient accommodation; would that power be transferred to the new authority?

SIR JOHN GORST said the new authority was compelled to provide school accommodation for the children within its area.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON in that case had nothing more to say, except that he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would insert some words in the Bill to make it quite clear.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said the first thing the new authority would do would be to look over these bye-laws and see that they were put into a proper form. He thought that, if this Amendment were carried, the effect would be most disastrous. This Clause at present gave the new authority all the powers of the School Board, but if these words were inserted the local authority would not be able to provide a school for a district in which a School Board did not now exist. He therefore hoped the words of the Clause would be allowed to stand.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE asked whether, as these words stood, it was perfectly clear that the new local authority would be in the same position as if we had universal School Boards at present.

SIR JOHN GORST was understood to assent.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that was an important admission, because the Bill was really establishing something like universal School Boards under the local authority. There was an ambiguity in the word "their" as it stood in the Clause. "The local authority" it was proposed, "should, throughout their area, have the powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee." The words were rather misleading, and it should be made clear that the words "their area" referred to the area of the local authority and not to the areas of the School Boards and School Attendance Committees, which would exclude non-school board areas.

MR. BRYCE said three points had been raised. With regard to the first, the natural reading of the passage would be that all the powers of the School Board within the area would pass to the new authority. It would also be a natural course for the county authority to provide a uniform set of bye-laws. Any doubt about these points raised by the form of drafting should be removed. The next point was with regard to the attendance bye-laws. After the passage of this Bill the educational authority would be the educational authority for one area no longer, and it would be particularly awkward to enforce one set of bye-laws in one area and one in another, and therefore all the County Councils would make them uniform, no doubt, for the various areas. The third point raised was the power of re-transfer. If the power of the re-transfer of schools arose later in the Bill, discussion could be reserved, but it was an important point, and he could not suppose that it was intended that schools taken over by a School Board should be given back by the new authority to voluntary management.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) hoped that among the improvements which the Bill would effect would be the unification of bye-laws, which now varied in adjoining districts, though all conditions of population and trade were similar. It was most injurious to adjoining districts that these bye-laws should vary, and he hoped that the Government would, when the new bye-laws were submitted to them for sanction insist that they should be uniform and require higher standards to the benefit of education and the advantage of the people.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) expressed surprise and alarm at the possibility of the new authority exercising the power to re-transfer to denominational management schools which had been transferred to School Boards. It was quite plain that the power would exist, and it was a disastrous prospect. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to tell the Committee that this part of the Bill would not be insisted on, because if it were they would have to oppose it very strongly indeed.

SIR JOHN GORST said the 24th Clause of the Act of 1870 empowered a School Board, on stringent conditions, to re-transfer a school to voluntary management. The conditions included the consent of the Education Department, a resolution of a two-thirds majority at a special School Board meeting, and the repayment of all expenditure upon the school from the rates. No doubt under the general words of the Clause, the same powers, with its conditions, would be vested in the new authority. He hoped, however, the Committee would find more convenient opportunity for discussing this point on Clause 12 in regard to the new regulations for voluntary schools. If, from the general powers, the Committee wished to make this an exception, the schedule would be the place to make it.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said it was absolutely necessary, in dealing with a matter of this kind, to test it in detail, and he wished to know how far the powers of the School Board were to be transferred to the new authority. First of all he desired to know if the power of

a School Board to dismiss the managers of a school would be transferred intact to the new authority.

SIR JOHN GORST said that would depend on the conditions the Committee might think it right to insert in Clauses 7 and 8 in reference to the position of managers.

* (5.15.) SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean, reminded the Vice-President that this point was not now being raised for the first time, but that it was dealt with by several speakers in the debate on the Second Reading of the Bill. The point was of first-class importance, and the right hon. Gentleman had suggested that it could be met by including Section 24 of the Act of 1870 in the schedule of repeals, but he had not said that the Government would assent to such an Amendment. It was essential that the Committee should know the intention of the Government on the subject, and until that knowledge was imparted these general words should be kept before the Committee. Many of the powers transferred were, however, inapplicable in detail to the new state of things, and these general words ought to be carefully scrutinised from the point of view of such details. To take the one point of the two-thirds majority. What would answer to the two-thirds majority of the School Board? Would it be a two-thirds majority of the County Council, or a two-thirds majority of the Committee? That was merely an illustration, but it showed how productive of litigation these general words might be.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) hoped the Committee would have some assurance from the Government with regard to the treatment of Clause 24 of the Act of 1870. Quite apart from the difficulty of the two-thirds majority, which had been referred to, it had to be remembered that heretofore a school, when re-transferred, was transferred to a body prepared to take over its maintenance, whereas now it would be transferred to a body which would continue to repair the buildings, but would not be responsible for the maintenance. Under

these circumstances the position was so very different that he hoped the Government would promise favourably to consider the repeal of Clause 24 when the Schedule was reached.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said that although the stringent provisions of Clause 24 of the Act of 1870 would prevent the frequent use of the power of re-transfer, it might be availed of in cases which otherwise would have to be met under Clauses 9 and 10 of the present Bill. In places where there were only board schools, but in which a considerable proportion of the population preferred a denominational school, and, by common consent, it was desirable that they should have such a school, the case might occasionally be met by a re-transfer of an old voluntary school to the denominational managers. To provide for such a case he thought the words should be retained.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought the argument of his noble friend was not likely to appeal very strongly to the Committee. It was perfectly true that the policy of the Bill was that under certain circumstances new denominational schools might be built not at the expense of the denomination, but that was very different from a case in which a denomination was unwilling or unable to continue the cost of a school, and had transferred it to the local authority under conditions which made a re-transfer impossible unless there was some extraordinary change in local circumstances. It would be a rather strong order to say that there should be a re-transfer to a denomination when the burden of keeping up the school had been so largely diminished. His own inclination would be to say that this power of re-transfer—which he thought was rarely, if ever used—should not be continued, but that the denominations should be content with the very large powers given to them to erect denominational schools where there seemed to be a real necessity for them.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS in view of the concession made by the right hon. Gentleman, and the assurance that the point raised by the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs would be considered, asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) moved to omit the words "and duties" from line thirty-three. While disposed to agree that the powers as to management hitherto exercised by the School Board should be transferred to the local Education Committee, he thought there was much to be said in favour of leaving the duties as far as possible in the hands of the local managers. There were many advantages in having a single authority dominating the primary schools in a county area, but there was also the danger of a diminution in the local interest taken in the primary education in the various towns and villages in that county. What was to be the real position of these managing Committees? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Dartford Division had expressed the opinion that they would be in pretty much the same position as at present, while the Vice President had assured the Committee that they would be the creatures and servants of the local Education Committee. On the broad ground that it was well to place some responsibility upon these bodies, he thought there was much to be said for the Amendment. One of the duties to be transferred, if the Clause passed in its present form, was that of maintaining the schools in an efficient condition. That was already provided for by Clause 8. Then there was the duty of providing school buildings and suitable school apparatus. From the standpoint of efficiency a very good purpose might be served by leaving that responsibility on the shoulders of the local Committee. All would agree that the duties with regard to inspection should be discharged by the Board of Education and the county authorities, but the duty of appointing an attendance officer—who required to be a local man in order that he should know the local circumstances of each case—might be better exercised by the local Committee. The same remark would apply to the duty of making returns. It was very desirable that people should be induced to continue to take an alert interest in the management of the schools in their respective localities, and if such duties as he had referred to were left in the

hands of the local managers it was far more likely that efficient men and women would be forthcoming to fill positions on those Committees. He believed the interests of education would be promoted by the adoption of his Amendment, and therefore, he begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 33, to leave out 'and duties.'"—(Mr. Herbert Roberts.)

Question proposed.

"That the words 'and duties' stand part of the clause."

(5.30.) SIR JOHN GORST said the hon. Member had spoken about what he called the local Education Committee, but what that body was he had not attempted to explain. It was quite clear that nobody but the local authority could find the funds, and therefore upon that body should be put the duty of providing school buildings and apparatus. As to school attendance officers, it was quite true that they might consult the local body of managers of their own creation to advise them, but they must make themselves responsible for the carrying out of this important duty. In regard to the making of returns, which School Boards were bound to do, it was clear that some of those returns would be very costly, and incur a very large expenditure of money indeed. The examples which had been given by hon. Members seemed to him most clearly to be fatal objections.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CHANNING said he understood that in the schedule the 5th Section of the Act of 1891 was repealed, and therefore the powers and duties of a School Board as regarded the provision of free places were omitted from this Bill. He did not see in any part of the Bill any provision which placed the same responsibility or gave the same power to the local education authority which was given in Section 5 of the Act of 1891 to the School Boards. He wished to raise this matter because it seemed to him to be a matter of extreme importance that the local education authority should have the same power of providing on its

own responsibility the making of provision for free places. If the right hon. Gentleman could assure him that such power was already in the Bill, he would not press his Amendment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 35, after '1900,' to insert the words 'and if at any time the Board of Education are satisfied that the authority have failed to perform any such duty, the Board may send them a requisition requiring them to fulfil the duty which they have so failed to perform.'"—(Mr. Channing.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR JOHN GORST said there was no doubt about the authorities having this power under the Bill, but he would promise that this matter should be looked into, and he would take care that the authorities should be subjected to the obligation expressed in the Amendment.

MR. CHANNING said he was astonished that so important a point had not been fully considered before. If the right hon. Gentleman would give him a pledge that this particular section of the Act of 1891 would not be repealed, of course the question fell to the ground.

SIR JOHN GORST: Really the hon. Member should not be surprised because in the third schedule it is provided that—

"(5.) The following provision shall have effect in lieu of section 5 of the Elementary Education Act, 1891—

"'The duty of a local education authority under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1902, to provide a sufficient amount of public school accommodation, shall include the duty to provide a sufficient amount of public school accommodation without payment of fees in every part of their area.'"

DR. MACNAMARA said he wished to know whether it was the view of the Government that Clause 10 did or did not seriously modify the situation which had existed up to the present time with regard to the supply of the necessary school accommodation.

SIR JOHN GORST said they could discuss that point upon Clause 10 when he should be prepared to argue the point.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) pointed out that Section 5

of the Act of 1891 provided for a limit of age, and laid down that public school accommodation should be provided without payment of fees for children over three and under fifteen years of age. Sub-section 5 took the place of this provision, but it only imposed the obligation of providing public school accommodation and said nothing about the limit of age prescribed by the Act of 1891. This Amendment raised one of the many questions which ought to be raised as to the powers and duties of School Boards. He wished to know if this was the correct method of raising these questions, or should they be dealt with when dealing with the schedules, or would they then be shut out?

* THE CHAIRMAN: I should say generally that they would not be shut out. This Clause is a general transfer of all the powers except those which are entirely repealed by the schedules. Therefore if the hon. Member wishes to transfer to a new local authority certain powers which appear now under the Schedule, his proper course is to strike out the repealed section under the schedule. If the hon. Member wishes to add to those powers I do not think he will be precluded in any way when we reach the schedule, this Clause being simply a general one.

MR. CHANNING said that having regard to the statement of the hon. Gentleman that the *status quo* was to be maintained, he begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that before the Amendment was withdrawn he wished to know whether he could now or at some subsequent stage raise the question of the provision of free places in unsectarian schools. That was a very great grievance in some parts of the country. He asked whether, with the leave of the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire, the Committee would consent to allow the Amendment to be amended by the insertion after "accommodation" of the words "in a school provided by the local authority." They were making a new departure in elementary education, and it would be a great dereliction of duty on the part of the House of Commons if they allowed

this opportunity to pass of securing sufficient accommodation in schools provided by the local authority itself.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE asked whether the Amendment was in order.

MR. BRYCE submitted that this Amendment might well be considered in order.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said this Amendment would impose an entirely new duty. The Clause dealt with the transfer of existing powers.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If a School Board has the power now which the hon. Member is desirous to have transferred, the words are not necessary, because it will be transferred. If they have not the power now, I do not think it can be put into this Clause.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*(5.52.) SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington) moved an Amendment on Clause 6, providing for the insertion after "Committee" of the words "as set out in the fifth schedule hereto," the object being to add a schedule to the Bill clearly defining the powers and duties under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900, to be conferred on the new local education authority. He confessed when he first read the words imposing powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee, under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900—that was thirty years of statutory accumulation, and further complicated by Cockerton and other judgments—he was dismayed. If these were his feelings, having had the advantage of a legal training involving a more or less intimate acquaintance with statutes for some years, what must the feeling of the newly-appointed member of the new local education authority be when he was confronted with the appalling and unexplained responsibility conveyed in these words. Such a man would not in the least know how to start finding out what his duties and obligations were. An expert would be wiser. He would send immediately to the Vote Office, if he were a Member

Mr. Herbert Lewis.

of Parliament, or to Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode if he were not, and he would buy all the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900. Then he would take the repealing schedule of this Bill, namely the fourth schedule to this Act, and he would proceed to strike out of the Elementary Acts, 1870 to 1900, all sections and portions of sections that were repealed by that schedule. Then he would make a careful abstract of what remained of the Elementary Acts, and from that he would extract a list of his "powers and duties." That was how the skilled member of the new education authority would set to work—but alas for the amateur at this kind of job. He would be distracted, if not driven to insanity, or at least insomnia; and one thing was certain—that if his knowledge depended upon his own exertions, there would not be one in fifty of these new members of the new education authority who would ever face the task and know what his powers and duties under this Bill were. They simply would not do this technical work, and he did not think it was fair to ask them to do it unaided. Then why not do it for them? His object was to give the new member of the Local Education Authority a bird's eye view of his duties and powers under this Bill. When he has read this Clause and asked what were his duties and powers, the answer was clear—"look at Schedule V." Otherwise there was a danger that he either would never make his investigation at all, or he would be left to the guidance of a Town Clerk or some other official, who would not, and could not be expected to be a reliable educational authority. From either alternative, he could foresee confusion and mistake. Nay, even supposing that a clerk to the new education authority did become a legal expert—and there were many able men amongst these corporation and County Council servants—the clerk in legal matters would become the Board, and a repetition in education of the influence of clerks to justices, would be repeated—a condition of things which, he thought, was much to be deprecated. So much for the convenience and utility of his suggestion. Now, as to the drafting. This was not so much a drafting Amendment, as a supplement to the words of the Clause—explanatory of the words. He did not attack the drafting. He

only desired to make it clear, so that he who runs may read and understand. Now as to the effect of his proposed words. He wanted only a declaration in the Clause that there should be a schedule of duties and powers. He did not ask the Government to prepare the schedule. He had had a schedule prepared for him. It was based on a paper issued by the National Education Association, which he had had carefully checked. It had, he believed, been carefully done, and against each description of power and duty there was placed this section of the Act whence that power or duty was deduced, so that the member of the new authority could be put at once on the spot. It might be urged that it would be dangerous to have such a list, lest some power or duty should be omitted. To this he replied, No. These powers and duties were nearly, if not entirely, statutory. There was no danger, provided the subject was attacked with industry and zeal. Even if there were such danger, it would not pass the wit of man to provide, after consideration, protecting words against limitation. Further, there was nothing in his proposal which would interfere with the form of the Bill, except perhaps the simplification of the repealing schedule. He desired that this Bill should be self-contained. A little trouble taken now would make these points and duties clear. If they desired a popular Bill let the Government make it a clear Bill. He offered it with all sincerity, desiring to improve this Bill, and he ventured to regard his suggestion as a real piece of practical legislation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 34, after the word 'Committee,' to insert the words '[as set out in the Fifth Schedule hereto].'"—(*Sir Joseph Leese.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said he sympathised with the object his hon. friend had in view, viz., to make Acts of Parliament clearer and more easily understood. But it did not appear to him that that object would be obtained by the means adopted by his hon. friend. The difficulties would, he conceived, be

increased rather than diminished by the adoption of the Amendment. Perhaps what was desired might be best secured, after the Bill had become law, by passing an Act consolidating all educational legislation, and issuing a text book containing in general and popular form the necessary information. In these circumstances he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said he supported the Amendment, because it was an attempt to make an Act of Parliament more simple for laymen. The right hon. Gentleman had distinctly argued on the other side of the question, and wanted to make Acts of Parliament more complicated than they need be, and to worry the general public by a text book which would be written by a lawyer. He wished to quote a judgment by the late Lord Coleridge on legislation by reference in a case in which the judges were asked to decide the meaning of a section in an Act of Parliament—

"This procedure of legislation by reference," said Lord Coleridge, "makes the interpretation of modern Acts of Parliament a very difficult, and sometimes doubtful matter. We, the judges, have perhaps the least cause to complain. We sit here for the purpose, among other things, of interpreting Acts of Parliament, and we bring, or ought to bring, to our task trained and experienced intellects. But in practical matters of every day concern, such as the possession and exercise of the franchise, it is of the last importance that the law conferring it, and the rules which govern its exercise, should be easily comprehensible by the mass of the ordinary voters. We are well aware that protest as to past legislation is unavailing, but for the future to draw attention to a plain evil may perhaps be the first step towards its remedy."

He had other references in which judges had complained of the same thing, but he did not think he need trouble the Committee with further illustrations of the evils of the present system. There was no Member who had ever been called upon to deal with a far reaching Act of Parliament but had felt the difficulty which his hon. friend wanted to remove. If a man wanted to know what the Bill really did, he was told that the local education authority was to have all the powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee, and then he was referred to the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to

1900. If he purchased these Elementary Education Acts he found, as soon as he got to the second of them, that certain sections of the Act of 1870 were repealed, and if he went on through all the Acts he discovered that certain sections in previous Acts were repealed and certain other sections were modified. And then having gone through all these Acts and tried to understand them, he was advised to buy a text book, which might or might not be accurate, and which certainly had no authority. Why should not a simple schedule of the kind proposed in the Amendment of his hon. friend be adopted, so as to give those who had to deal with education all the information they required.

MR. BOUSFIELD said there was not much chance in a particular case of doing anything which was contrary to the general run of legislation. There could be but one opinion, that the vicious practice of legislation by reference rendered it difficult for lawyers, and practically impossible for laymen, to understand Acts of Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman who answered his hon. and learned friend had spoken in sympathetic terms in reference to the matter, and he suggested that the difficulty might be met by a Consolidation Act. No doubt that was a way to solve the difficulty, but his right hon. friend knew well that there was not the slightest chance of an Educational Consolidation Act being passed within a measurable and reasonable time. He would like to ask the Government if the passing of such a Consolidation Act could not be facilitated by some alteration in the Standing Orders.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said such a Standing Order was already proposed.

MR. BOUSFIELD said he did not understand that there was such a Standing Order in existence. At any rate, some alteration should be made in what was at present a very vicious practice.

MR. BRYCE said he thought his hon. and learned friend was entitled to the thanks of the Committee, and even of the Government, for the trouble he had taken

in preparing this schedule, which was a model, in point of clearness and preciseness, of what a schedule should be. It was really a matter of the greatest possible importance that in this Act, which was going to be worked by large numbers of education authorities, there should be such a clear and brief statement of the powers and duties of the new education authorities, as was contained in the Schedule drawn up by his hon. friend. The President of the Local Government Board said that the members of the local authorities could provide themselves with a legal textbook; but the ordinary layman found it as difficult to understand an ordinary textbook as the Act of Parliament with which it dealt. The sections were interspersed with comments and cross references, which would make it difficult for a lay member of the local authorities to follow. The President of the Local Government Board had also said that they might have a Consolidation Act. He acknowledged that there was a proposal to facilitate the passage of Consolidation Acts by a new Standing Order, but that was not yet passed. But overloaded as the House was with work, it would be found difficult to pass an Education Consolidation Act, and, therefore, it was like asking them to wait till the millennium. He thought his hon. and learned friend had done very well in bringing forward this schedule. The only difficulty was that it would require very close examination, but the law officers of the Crown and the legal Members of the House had got plenty of time for that. He thought the Government would really do well to accept the Amendment, and between now and the time when the schedule would be reached to give it that close examination to which he had referred.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he agreed with the opinion expressed on both sides of the House as to the undoubtedly great inconvenience to the public which now arose from the habit of legislation by cross-reference. He believed that he had been as responsible for legislation by cross-reference as his neighbours; but, after all, it was the inevitable result of the desire of the modern House of Commons to discuss at great length all important legislative measures brought before it. Every Government had experienced that difficulty, and had been

been forced to meet it in the same way. An hon. Gentleman opposite spoke of a dictum of Lord Coleridge, in which he denounced legislation by reference; but he had no doubt that Lord Coleridge, when he was Attorney General, had, in drafting Bills, done exactly what his predecessors had done. He was afraid he could not recommend the House to adopt the Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said that the matter was extremely simple and non-controversial, and he was quite sure, if the right hon. Gentleman could see his way to meet the supporters of the Amendment, there would be no disposition to discuss at length the schedule when they reached it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he would consider the matter.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend would command the assent of everybody on that side of the House. All were agreed that legislation by reference was a bad system. If the right hon. Gentleman were himself a lawyer, he would see the mischief which was now complained of. The evil was more pronounced, perhaps, in the Workmen's Compensation Act than in any other. Under that Act complaints arose over and over again as to the way in which the Act had been drafted. With regard to the Amendment before the House it raised no very controversial matters, but it gathered into a convenient

form that which was put forward in Clause 6 of the Bill. There were many parts of the various Acts of Parliament which imposed duties on School Boards which had not been considered, and if they were not considered and dealt with now, the Government would only be laying up for themselves a great many difficulties. Nobody could say how many Acts of Parliament were dealt with. There were the Acts of 1870, 1873, 1876, 1879, 1880, 1893 and 1899 and others, and was it common sense to ask the House to legislate on matters of this kind in this way? There would be many persons dealing with the Act who were not lawyers but members of local bodies, and it was not conceivable to suppose that these men would not find themselves in a perfect quagmire of difficulties when they came to deal with these matters. In his opinion, in this Act they ought to have a complete code, so that anybody who ran could read the Act. He hoped the hon. Member who moved the Amendment would go still further and arrange a complete schedule. So far as the Amendment went he should support it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) suggested that there was a precedent for a schedule of this kind, and that was the Behring Sea Fisheries Act, in which all the sections referred to were embodied in a schedule. Such a method removed much doubt and difficulty.

(6.23.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 277. (Division List, No. 288.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter

Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Gladstone, Rt. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.

M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mather, Sir William
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Moulton, Jon Fletcher
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighes.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.

Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg'n, Gower)
 Tomkinson, James
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Ure, Alexander

Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Joseph Leese and Mr.
 Corrie Grant.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus H'nry Eden
 Ambrose, Robert
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarras, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Col. Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Crauborne, Lord
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Delany, William
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets)
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. D. Dixon
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Fardell, Sir T. George
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Field, William
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Sir Michael (London Univ.)
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gardner, Ernest
 Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Lincoln)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Graham, Henry Robert
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)

Green, Walford D. (Wendesbury)
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hamilton, Marq. of (Londonderry)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Healy, Timothy Michael
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hobhouse, Henry Somerset, E.
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houldt, Joseph
 Howard, Jno. (Kent, Faversham)
 Howard, J. (Middlesex, Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Dorset, W.)
 Lawrence, Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred

Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McGovern, T.
 McKillop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. B. (Dumfriessh.)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Mooney, John J.
 Morgan, David (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Conner, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Conner, T. F. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Malley, William

Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)

Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tully, Jasper
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar Exeter
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. CE. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. Ashton und-Lyne
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell (Birm.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quinn, Major W. H.
 Young, Samuel
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) moved—

"In page 2, line 35, after '1900,' insert
 'and the Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884.'"

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he had
 no objection to this Amendment.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER thought a
 shorter form of words would be more
 convenient, and suggested "and other
 Acts including local Acts."

MR. CORRIE GRANT thought this
 would be very much the better way of
 dealing with this matter.

MR. BRYCE expressed his gratification
 at the acceptance of the Amendment by
 the Government; at the same time he
 thought its acceptance made all the more
 necessary the schedule suggested by his
 hon. friend.

MR. WHITLEY in order to make
 the matter clear begged leave to with-
 draw his Amendment, in order to insert
 after "1900" the words "any other Acts
 including Local Acts."

The Amendment was by leave with-
 drawn, and the substituted Amendment
 agreed to.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that so
 many questions had arisen as to the respec-
 tive spheres of control and management
 occupied by the local education authorities,
 and local school managers respectively,
 that it became absolutely necessary to
 add some words to the Bill showing
 where the controlling authority was to
 be found. What authority, for in-
 stance, had control over the teachers'
 salaries? That was a most important
 question. Was that to be left to the
 discretion of the local managers? Then,
 again, with regard to the specific amounts
 to be allocated to the different teachers,
 was that to be settled by the county
 authority, or was that body to grant a
 lump sum which the Managers could
 divide as they thought best? He thought
 the ultimate authority in a case of that
 kind ought to rest with the local

authority and not with the managers. Then there were questions which related to the schools and the expenditure for books and apparatus. Hitherto considerations of economy had had to prevail in the schools; were they now to have a régime of extravagance because whatever was asked for would have to be supplied by the local authorities? Was the supply of books and apparatus to be left in the hands of the local managers? Then, with regard to school fees, was that to be in the hands of the education authority, or was it to be determined by the school managers? The county to which he belonged had two secondary schools, one of which attempted to underbid the other by charging a lower fee, but the county authority decided that the fees should be uniform in order that one school might not underbid the other. Was it not possible under this Bill that similar difficulties might arise, not by underbidding, but by offering illegitimate advantages, unless the education authority had full control over the schools. Another important question was as to the control of religious instruction in the schools provided by the authority. Was that control to be in the hands of the managers or of the authority? If the former, he feared the managers would be appointed on sectarian grounds. In any case, it was desirable that the Committee should know exactly whether the local education authority would have full control in that respect. These questions should not be left to be settled by Courts of law. The High Court of Parliament should, in the first instance, define the respective spheres of the authority and the managers. Again, who was to decide as to the use of school buildings and furniture outside school hours? Further, if new furniture had to be provided, and the managers preferred a kind which would be more useful for general parochial purposes, would the local authority be able to insist on the provision of furniture primarily, if not entirely, suitable for the purposes of the children of the school? Another question was as to the use by the Church, without payment, of furniture provided at the expense of the ratepayers. A number of similar questions would occur to every Member, in regard to which unnecessary friction

Mr. Herbert Lewis.

might arise between the local authority and the managers. It was impossible to set out in the schedule the respective degrees of control to be exercised by the two bodies, and, as far as he could see, the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty was by providing that the full control of the schools should be in the hands of the local education authority. He therefore begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 35, after the word 'the' to insert the word 'full.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'full' be there inserted."

(6.50.) SIR JOHN GORST did not think there was much difference between "control" and "full control," and doubted whether the insertion of the adjective would much strengthen the clause. The hon. Member had raised a great number of questions which had nothing to do with this Amendment, and would be more conveniently discussed on Clauses 7 and 8, regulating the relations between the local authority and the school managers. The present clause merely gave, in general terms, control over all secular elementary education to the new local authority. The local authority had the power of the purse, and, therefore, he fancied that in all the minor matters which the hon. Gentleman had mentioned that authority would be able to exercise pretty effective control. Reference had been made to teachers' salaries. As the local authorities were going to pay the salaries, he believed they would have a very potent voice in the matter, and, as they would be responsible for the efficiency of the school, they would have a potent voice in deciding what the staff of the school should be.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said that the education authority, so far as it provided schools, might no doubt provide them on its own terms, but with regard to voluntary schools it might find itself in some difficulty, owing to the ambiguity of the word "control." If this Amendment were accepted the education authority would have, in effect, absolute control over the schools. The word "absolute" would perhaps be a better word than that proposed by the

Amendment, but the adjective "full," in his opinion at any rate, strengthened the power of the local authority, and he should, therefore, vote for the Amendment.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the Committee had already decided that the local authorities were to have the powers and duties of a School Board and School Attendance Committee, and if they were to add to that the control of education, the latter must be something which the School Board did not, at present, possess. The Amendment was important only to the extent that it raised the question as to whether the absolute control of education in a certain area was to be given to the local authority. In the schedule the section had been abolished which enabled the Board of Education to put a School Board which did not perform its duties in default, and to take independent measures to organise education in that district. He took it, therefore, that, in future, the Board of Education could not exercise those functions. What did "control of education" mean? If he interpreted the words aright it meant that the Board of Education transferred the whole of its powers, free from any conditions or safeguards, to the local authority. If it did not mean that, what did it mean? He thought the Committee ought to have the assistance of the legal advisers of the Crown on these points of drafting, which sometimes involved questions of considerable substance. The relations of the local authorities and the Board of Education depended entirely on the interpretation placed by the Courts upon the word "control." As far as he could see, it would be within the competence of any Government in future practically to hand over the whole control of education now exercised by the Board of Education to the local authorities. His only objection to that, provided it were done under proper safeguards, would be in regard to the small towns of 10,000 inhabitants. It was one thing to hand over the control to responsible bodies such as the County Councils, but to hand it over to these little authorities was quite a different matter, and, he believed, would be detrimental to the interests of education. He again asked

the Vice President of the Council what was contemplated by the word "control." Would the Board of Education have any power to declare a School Board to be in default?

SIR JOHN GORST said the point was so simple that he would even venture to answer the hon. Member without the assistance of the law officers of the Crown. In the Schedule, Section 16 of the Elementary Education Act was repealed, and that was the section which required the Board of Education to declare a School Board in default. This Bill contained what was believed by the Government to be a very much better provision. It would be very easy to go to the Courts and get a *mandamus* if the necessity arose.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE asked what powers the local authority would have that the School Board had not got at present.

SIR JOHN GORST said the local authority would be able to take a general survey of the whole of the elementary education in their county, to make provision for it as a whole, to co-ordinate the different schools in the county, and fit them into one general scheme.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES asked whether the Board of Education could obtain a *mandamus* against the local authority.

SIR JOHN GORST said there was a provision of that kind in the Bill. This might be a good or a bad proposal, but it was the provision that the Government put before the Committee, as a better provision than that in Section 16 of the Elementary Education Act.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said that it was perfectly clear that the word "control" must be interpreted by sub-Clauses *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d*, of Clause 8, which defined what was to be the nature of the control. He thought the Amendment was an extremely valuable one. If they put in the word "full" in front of "control," he submitted that it would be held that the word "full" gave some greater power than was given by the word "control" alone. He looked upon this word, not as a mere

adjective in front of control, but as a matter of real substance, and it provided that it was to be a full control so far as secondary education was concerned. The noble Lord the Member for Greenwich had said that they were perfectly willing that the local authority should have absolute control over secondary instruction. Unless they put in some qualifying adjective, they would not get that complete and full control for the aided schools which the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich was willing to grant.

MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) thought the point was one of importance, as it was proposed to define the extent of the authority given. The hon. Member opposite used the words "absolute control," and if there was any doubt about the matter, and the word "full" would clear away that doubt, then he should be quite willing to settle the matter in that way. He had always understood that any terms used in an Act of Parliament were used in the full sense unless limited by express words or by the context. He should have thought that the word "control," in the absence of any limitation, meant full control. There were duties and powers appertaining to these education authorities which were not clearly understood, such as the dismissal of teachers. He thought, however, that the proper way was to deal with those points when they were reached, and he yielded to no hon. Member in his desire that the control should be full and effective, but he hardly thought the proper way to deal with it was by accepting this Amendment.

(7.10.) MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought there was great force in the argument that "control" would be read as being limited by the words in the various sub-clauses of Clause 8, and therefore he hoped the Government would accept the word "full," for it could not do any harm. He agreed that adjectives ought not to appear so much in Acts of Parliament, but it was necessary to adopt some word to show that there was nothing in the way of control which was outside the jurisdiction of the local education authority. He desired to make two or three observations upon this subject in a wider sense. When they were dealing with

Mr. McKenna.

the jurisdiction of the School Boards over elementary education they had never before divorced the words "control" and "management." He thought he was entitled to point out that in the Act of 1870 they did not distinguish between "control" and "management," and he thought it was important to know the opinion of the Government upon this point. Under the Act they devolved from the local authority on to the managers of school matters of management, but in the Act of 1870, section 14, it was provided that every school should be conducted under the control and management of the School Board. Section 15 of that Act provided that the School Board might, if it thought fit, from time to time do certain things in regard to the control and management of the school. The hon. Member opposite had referred to the dismissal of teachers which he thought required full investigation, but was the appointment and dismissal of teachers a matter of control by the Education Department, or was it a matter in regard to the management of the schools? He hardly knew what they were leaving in the hands of the authority. He should like to know whether the local authority, which was to have full control over all secondary and elementary education, could in any way get rid of that control. He was rather inclined to think they could. Under this Bill, having regard to the portion of the section which they had already disposed of, he thought the education authority could give up its control if it desired to do so. He thought that followed by the provision made by section 15, which had been brought into this Clause. They were placing the control in the hands of the education authority, but by giving control to the manager they were allowing the local education authority to divest itself entirely of control, and they might leave the question entirely to a body of managers. This might turn out to be a very serious matter, for the managers need not be members of the education authority at all. In some small boroughs or urban districts an obscurantist body might appoint certain managers to deal with education just as they liked, and that was allowed by the Bill. He thought they ought to know

much more clearly than they did now what was the dividing line between control and management, and they ought to make it impossible that this control, which ought to remain in the hands of the local authority, should be delegated to any body of managers upon which it was not necessary that there should be any single person elected by the ratepayers at all.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE said the hon. and learned Gentleman was right in saying that "control" and "management" had been used very much as synonyms, and that it was now necessary to make a distinction between them. Hitherto there were practically only two bodies—the Board of Education and the School Board. It was true that there was some power for the delegation of duties, but the School Board had been the managing body. The new authority was to be the controlling body and not the managing body. He urged that the Committee should make a distinction between control and management. It occurred to him that control was equivalent to supervision. Now it was proposed to insert the word "full" before "control." Lawyers all admitted that adjectives were rather dangerous in Acts of Parliament. He did not think anybody had given whole-hearted support to the insertion of the word "full." The "control" referred to in the Clause was divided with the Board of Education which was the superior controlling body. There being double control, it would therefore never do to give absolute control to the local education authority.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said it seemed to him that the observations of the hon. and learned Member for North Monmouthshire were irrelevant to the Amendment. He endeavoured to point out the difference between "control" and "management," but it was difficult to see how that was relevant to the question whether the word "full" should be inserted. It was either unmeaning or tautological. Adjectives were carefully to be avoided except in newspaper articles, where they were useful, especially when payment was at space rates, but the idea of bringing the

sobriety of an Act of Parliament down to the somewhat florid style of newspaper articles was novel and revolutionary, and he hoped it was an idea unacceptable to the Committee. To insert the word "full" in the way proposed would be inconsistent with sub-section (c) of Clause 8. He would be glad if his hon. friend would withdraw the Amendment.

*SIR JOHN BRUNNER said that Clause 8 had been spoken of as a Clause of limitations. It was not so. Clause 8 described several powers which were to be bestowed on the local education authority. If the word "full" or "absolute" were inserted in Clause 6 now they would not be so nervously anxious to put every description of power into Clause 8. If the word "absolute" were inserted now, they would avoid a struggle to get further powers for the local authority into Clause 8.

MR. CORRIE GRANT said he would prefer the word "absolute," to the word "full." In support of this view he cited a letter, dated April 22, 1902, written by the Secretary for the Colonies to Mr. James Grey Glover, in which the right hon. Gentleman said—

"It gives to this authority, working through a representative Committee, absolute control of the secular education in the schools. The hours and the curriculum of instruction, the salaries of the teachers, the nature of the appliances, and the arrangements of the buildings will all be decided by the local authority, and although the actual nomination of the teachers is, in the case of the voluntary schools, reserved to the Committee of Management of such school, the local authority will be able to veto the appointment, or to secure dismissal if necessary, on educational grounds."

He thought this a good reason for inserting the word "absolute." He ventured to suggest that it was very desirable from the point of view of the hon. Member for East Somerset, to provide in this Clause that the whole power of dealing with schools on the secular side was to be given to the local education authority. Clause 6 conferred the power; Clause 7 proceeded to deal with the appointment of two sets of managers; and then came Clause 8 which was entirely a limitation Clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR offered as a compromise the words "shall be responsible for, and have control."

This being accepted, the Amendment was withdrawn in favour of Mr. Balfour's words, which were inserted in the Clause.

It being half-past seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress ; to sit again this evening.

— EVENING SITTING. —

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 6 :—

*(9.0.) MR. YOXALL moved to add after the word "control" in line 35, the words "and regulation" this referring to the control the Clause provides the education authority shall exercise over elementary instruction. He expressed a hope he would not be told that the words were superfluous. In this part of the Bill words were of very great importance and, if his Amendment were accepted, it would imply that the authority would exercise a regulating power over the aided schools of the district. Acceptance of this would achieve something towards the shortening of the Debates on subsequent parts of the Bill. The question was what was intended to be meant by the word "control." Under Clause 15 of the Act of 1870, control and management were almost identical in their meaning, but now the Government proposed to set up a new meaning of the word "control"—a meaning it had not hitherto had in school law. Having regard to the context, it was almost necessary to add words to convey the new meaning. At present the School Board did exercise over its schools very effective control. It laid down regulations for the guidance of managers, for the management of the schools and for the direction of teachers ; and in London, Nottingham, and parts of Lancashire, it shared the management of schools with local managers. But it retained control in two ways—financially and in the issue of regulations. He

wanted a similar course to be followed by local authorities under this Bill ; he wanted the local education authority to be compelled to make regulations for instruction in secular education in all their schools. He understood the framers of the Bill were willing to give that control, and he, therefore, could not understand why the Government objected to it. The insertion of the words "and regulations" would do away with all chance of misconception. The Bill as it stood was vague to the last degree. What, for instance, were the powers of finance to be devolved on the managers of schools ? He could not say, but he gathered from the Vice President that the local education authority would pay the expenses of the school direct. If not, then they ought to be in a position to make regulations as to the amount and method of expenditure, otherwise if the managers of the schools received a lump sum they might spend it as extravagantly as they pleased. In the interests of popular control, and in the interests of the Bill itself, he urged the right hon. Gentleman to accept the Amendment. Finally he asked—did the Board of Education intend to issue minutes on this point ?

Amendment proposed—

"In line 35, after the word 'control,' to insert the words 'and regulations.'"—(Mr. Yoxall.)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and regulations' be there inserted."

SIR JOHN GORST said the words which the hon. Member proposed to insert, and which he had spent nearly a quarter of an hour in defending, were words which really did not add anything to the force or sense of the Bill. They might not do any harm, but he had no hesitation in saying that the addition of them would do no good. A body which had a right of control obviously had a right to make regulations. Therefore the Amendment was superfluous ; it added nothing but phraseology to the Bill, and it did not produce greater clearness. He therefore thought the Government were bound to resist it.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES agreed entirely with the right hon. Gentleman that the addition of the words would not

in any way aid the object which he understood the proposer had in view. It would not be commended as a matter of draughtsmanship. If the word "control" was to be construed in its ordinary sense, it included the power of making regulations such as the hon. Member had referred to. But he would like to point out to the Vice President that this kind of Amendment was produced by the very vague manner in which the Bill had been drawn. The word "control" was not usual in Acts of Parliament, and its use might give rise to indefinite disputation in the future between public bodies in the royal Courts of Justice. He hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

Amendment negatived.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Flint Boroughs, to add after "control" the words "and management," is in order at this point.

MR. BRYCE said that if reference were made to the fourteenth and fifteenth sections of the Act of 1870, it would be found that the words "control and management," were used together as terms to denote the authority of the School Board. Many hon. Members on that side attached great importance to the word "management." They felt that as the School Board powers included "management," reference should be made to it in this clause also.

SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) pointed out that the phrase "manage instruction" would have a very dubious meaning.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said his hon. friend simply desired to do as was done in the Act of 1870.

SIR JOHN GORST: In the Act of 1870, the words are "the control and management of schools"; in this case it is "the control and management of instruction." The things are different.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said there was a great distinction between the words "control" and "management," "control" had a general meaning, but "management" signified a more definite interference with carrying on operations of any kind. He therefore submitted that the Amendment was quite in order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It is true, as the hon. Member has pointed out, that "control" has a general and "manage" a special meaning, but if he will look at Clause 6 he will find that is general, while Clause 7 is special. If the words "and management" were introduced in Clause 6, what would become of Clause 7? The Committee would never have an opportunity of considering it.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) moved to insert the word "inspection" after the word "control." He said that the object of the Amendment was to make the work of inspection a positive obligation on the new educational authority. This was a most important thing under the new scheme of education which the country was entering upon. It was impossible to conceive that the authorities who had the control of education for a whole county would be able to deal with it properly without the aid of inspectors. However active the members might be it would be impossible for them to visit the very numerous schools under their jurisdiction. For instance, in the case of Northumberland, how could they get to the schools in the out of the way parts of the Cheviots?

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I notice that the matter which the hon. Gentleman is seeking to raise is provided for in Clause 8, Sub-section (b.), which gives the local authority power to inspect.

MR. TREVELYAN: That only applies to voluntary schools. It does not deal with schools provided by the local authority. The only clause which deals with these schools is Clause 7.

MR. WALTER LONG: May I submit that with regard to schools provided by the local authority itself it obviously would have powers of inspection. Clause 8 gives the necessary powers over other schools.

MR. TREVELYAN thought his Amendment could hardly be said to be redundant. It would be well to insert those words, for they wanted to encourage local authorities to undertake the duty of inspection. In no other way could

they carry out these duties effectually. One of the most valuable uses of inspection under the London School Board system had been found to be the advice and information available when the question of the selection of teachers for promotion came up for consideration.

Amendment proposed —

"In page 2, line 35, after the word 'control,' to insert the words 'and inspection.'"—(*Mr. Trevelyan.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I rather hope the hon. Gentleman will see that the words he proposes, not only do not carry out his object, but that they militate against it. The House has decided that the local authority is to be responsible for, and to have control of, elementary and secondary education. Do you strengthen these words, or the reverse? I submit that they are so wide and strong that they are only weakened by any suggestion of the methods by which the control and responsibility are to be exercised. There is absolutely no doubt whatever that the local authority has the power of inspection, and it would be ludicrous to suggest that they had not. I think the hon. Member, from his own point of view, will be well advised not to press the Amendment.

MR. BRYCE did not agree that the matter was so simple. His hon. friend desired to make it perfectly clear that all the powers the authority could want over those schools they should have. This Clause was the only one which dealt with schools provided by the local authority itself, and Clause 8 had no weight at all in determining what could be done here. What was necessary was to define the extremely vague term "control," and he held that the Amendment was not unnecessary, as there was doubt as to how far the local authority could go, under the words of the Clause, in dealing with the managers of its schools. What were they to do? The House had just transferred the powers of School Boards. Those powers did not include the appointment of managers, yet by Clause 7 power was to be given to appoint them. While he

Mr. Trevelyan.

agreed that in all probability the local authority would have the power of inspection, the Amendment of his hon. friend conveyed a more complete and definite idea of these powers, and it was well that they should be directed to send inspectors into schools managed by local managers. Although his hon. friend might be content with the assurance given him by the right hon. Gentleman he must say he did not think the Amendment superfluous.

* (9.30.) SIR FRANCIS POWELL said that the Lancashire County Council, under the Technical Instruction Act, did inspect schools, although he could not discover in that Act any word about inspection. But inspection naturally followed a grant of money—it followed from the power of supervision and control. The remarks which he had made in regard to Lancashire applied also to the West Riding of Yorkshire. They could not supervise education without inspection; and without inspection control would be wholly impossible.

(9.32.) MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he thought the Amendment of his hon. and learned friend was much more important than the right hon. Gentleman had been willing to concede. He had no doubt whatever, in his own mind, that even in the old days, if an hon. Member had asked the Minister in charge whether the local authority had power to employ and pay inspectors he would have got full assurances from the Minister that they would have ample control. But then a Mr. Cockerton might arise and get the Courts to decide that that was not so. They must have properly appointed inspectors to overlook the education in the schools, and it should be made perfectly clear that the money of the public could be used in the payment of these inspectors. It was true that in the Act of 1870 there were no particular words to show that the School Board had the right to appoint inspectors, although it was constantly done; but it was thought necessary in that Act to provide that the schools should be open to inspection at all times. That was all that they wanted here, and then there would be no doubt that the local authorities would have the right to appoint and

pay inspectors. He knew of no decision or any Act of Parliament which entitled the right hon. Gentleman to say positively that the Courts would necessarily hold that control included inspection. Inspection by the local authorities was a most useful and necessary thing, and his hon. friend was quite sound in desiring to put it into the Bill.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said the question turned on the meaning of the word "control." By the Amendment to the 5th Clause the School Board of the county borough of Cardiff would be got rid of, and he wanted to ask what would be the position of the County Council under these circumstances. There were many schools in Cardiff provided by the School Board, many voluntary schools, and continuation and higher grade schools. Would the County Council have the right, or would they not, to expend the money in the payment of inspectors? He had done his best to puzzle out what would be the effect of this Bill in regard to Wales. No one on either side of the House seemed to thoroughly grasp the situation in regard to the abolition of such Boards upon Welsh education. Would the County Council have the right to appoint inspectors and pay them out of the rates or out of the money derived from Treasury grants?

SIR JOHN GORST: Certainly.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES: The Vice-President said, "Certainly"; but he was not at all sure of that; and the addition of the words of the Amendment would make it clear without altering the effect of the Clause.

MR. M'KENNA said there were two grounds on which it might be alleged that the local education authority might appoint inspectors—first because they were the successors of the School Boards, and second, because they were responsible for secular education. The words "secular instruction" applied to the aided schools as well as to the provided schools; but by Sub-section (b) of Clause 8 special power was given to inspect aided schools only; and in view of the Cockerton judgment he did not think it would be wise to refuse to accept the Amendment.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said that after what they had heard that afternoon there was no proposition so elementary or so simple that was not arguable. He asked if there could be any reasonable doubt that these authorities would have powers of inspection? They were responsible for, and had control of, secular education, they were bound to maintain and pay for the schools, and under these circumstances was it not plain that the local authorities would have to satisfy themselves that the education for which they were responsible, and over which they had control, was being properly conducted and efficient. It really seemed to him that the insertion of the word "inspection" would militate against the carrying into effect the wishes of the hon. Member for the Elland Division, and would diminish, by enumeration, the powers of the local authorities.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said he thought that if the Clause as it stood was construed along with Sub-section (b) of the 8th Clause there was no power of appointing an inspector except in the case of aided schools, in the face of an auditor such as Mr. Cockerton. He pressed the desirability of the appointment of inspectors from an educational and economical point of view. There were in hundreds of village schools classes of different standards and one teacher had to deal with the whole of them. In such cases an inspector would insist on co-ordination. The insertion of the words of the Amendment in the Clause would be an encouragement to the educational authorities to take that favourable step forward.

MR. ABEL THOMAS (Carmarthen-shire, E.) said that the second subsection of Clause 8 provided for the inspection of voluntary schools, but did that mean the exclusion of other schools? There was nothing certain in the construction of a statute, and it seemed to him that to pass the clause as it stood there was a probability of the Courts of Law holding that they could not have inspection of the schools provided by the local education authority.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said the hon. Member for Oxford University was strongly in favour of the appointment of

inspectors. Then why, in Heaven's name, not say so in the Bill and thus leave the matter no longer in doubt? The hon. Gentleman had not the same acquaintance with local bodies as he had. This was a subject which had been administered by Town Councils and County Councils, and these were bodies that were most arguable when it came to be a question of the increase of rates. His opinion was that the definite certainty of the appointment of inspectors would be most advantageous to the education of the country, and economical besides. If the matter was left in doubt, and if each County Council or Town Council were to interpret this Act in accordance with its own inclination, there would be various decisions, and in would come some Mr. Cockerton

and upset everything. All that the Amendment meant was to make the intention of the Government more plain and clear.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he wanted to know whether two or three local authorities could combine for an inspection.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought they could. The suggestion of the hon. Gentleman was well worth consideration, and he would consider it.

(9.53.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 68; Noes, 194. (Division List No. 289).

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond Univ.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McKenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mather, Sir William
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Perks, Robert William
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter

Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, F. Freeman-(Hastings)
Thomas, J. A. (Glam'rgan, Gower)
Ure, Alexander
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Trevelyan and Mr.
Evans.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Alhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry

Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse

Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. d. Dixon
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Field, William
Finch, George H.

Mr. Broadhurst.

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Heath, James (Stafford, N. W.)
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Hault, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Mon.)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)

Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Govern, T.
 M'Kean, T.
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
 Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'rary Mid)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Randles, John S.
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine

Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, H. C. (North'mb. Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thorborn, Sir Walter
 Tollenmache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Valentin, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyllie, Alexander
 Young, Samuel
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES said he desired to move an Amendment to leave out the word "secular" in line 35. The effect of the Amendment would be that the clause would read—

"The local education authority shall throughout their area have the control of all instruction in public elementary schools whether provided by them or not."

As had been said more than once during the discussion of the clause, the real question turned on the meaning of the word "control"; and he still invited the attention of the Prime Minister to the meaning of that word. The Committee had settled the religious difficulty with respect of secondary education; and it was now approaching the same difficulty in regard to public elementary education. The School Boards having practically disappeared from the scheme

of education which the Government proposed to establish under the Bill, they were face to face with the question as to what should be the powers of the local education authority. All he asked was that the control of all instruction, whatever kind of adjective might be applied to it, should be given under the conditions of the Bill to the local education authority. Supposing the word "secular" was taken out of the clause what would be the power of the local education authority? He did not think that they would, in the least degree, attempt to say what religious doctrine should or should not be taught in schools of which they had the use for the purposes of elementary education. On the other hand if the word "secular" were left in, questions of the very gravest difficulty would arise. What

was secular education? The Bill stated that the local education authority was to have control of all secular education in public elementary schools. These schools were of two kinds; schools which had been provided under the Act of 1870 and schools, which might be provided under the Bill. Then there were the voluntary schools which were managed in a different way to the board schools. What did secular education mean as applied to these schools? If the word "secular" were left out there would be really no difficulty whatsoever. He did not wish to argue upon an Amendment of that kind the whole question as to what should be the ultimate system of elementary education in the country. He wished to proceed by steps; but he would take that opportunity of asking once more what was the real and ultimate intention of the Government. He went further and said that if the word "secular" were left out they would have an opportunity of determining once for all, those religious controversies which the Prime Minister had more than once referred to as barren controversies in connection with educational matters.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2. line 35, to leave out the word 'secular.'"—(*Mr. Brynmor Jones.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'secular' stand part of the clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said, with all respect, that the hon. and learned Gentleman found difficulties where they hardly existed, and did not see difficulties which appeared to him, at all events, to stare one in the face. The hon. and learned Gentleman saw great difficulties in distinguishing religious from secular education. No doubt they might argue for ever as to what was secular or religious education; they might argue for ever as to what was education at all. After all, they must use some language in a Bill, and the English language was fairly understood, even by his Majesty's Judges. He would point out a difficulty which the hon. and learned Gentleman had ignored. The hon. and learned Gentleman said if the local authority dealt with education all round, no controversial

questions would arise, because they would not trouble themselves about religious controversies. Under the clause as it stood, they were responsible for and had full control over secular education, but if the Amendment were adopted, they would be responsible for and have full control over religious instruction. Then questions of dogma must come in. The Act of Parliament would throw on them full responsibility and full control; they could not avoid it; and the result would be that every education authority throughout the country, if the Amendment were embodied in the Bill, would be responsible for these dogmatic controversies, which, he agreed, were sometimes carried to excess, and which could not be avoided, if religion were to be dealt with at all. He could not imagine anything more fatal to the local education authority than the proposal of the hon. and learned Gentleman. It was quite true it had been found possible in Scotland to throw that responsibility upon the local authorities, but in Scotland they did not avoid all these dogmatic questions. The system worked well in Scotland; but they were a remarkable nation. He really did not think it would work in England. It was hardly a practicable proposal to say that every education authority in counties and boroughs was to have brought under its control the religious teaching to be administered in every school in the country.

MR. BRYCE said that the right hon. Gentleman did not appear to have quite grasped the meaning of his hon. and learned friend's Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that his hon. and learned friend's intention was, at that stage, to discuss the religious question. The view of his hon. and learned friend was that, at the present stage, it would be premature to determine that the local authority should have no control whatever over religious instruction. His hon. and learned friend felt as much as any hon. Member the extreme gravity and difficulty of dealing with these religious questions. He agreed that in Scotland they had succeeded in dealing with the question. That was due, not only to the admirable qualities of the nation, for the right

Mr. Brynmor Jones.

hon. Gentleman's reference to which he was grateful, but also to certain happy circumstances which occurred in the sixteenth century, and which made the Reformation in Scotland a more thorough-going piece of work than it was in England. He passed away from that tempting theme to the practical question of the Amendment. If they put in the word "secular" in the clause they would determine the question, because they would declare that the local authority should have nothing to do with religious instruction. They would be face to face with the Question on Clause 8; and they ought not, at that early stage, when they had had no opportunity of considering the various solutions which might be suggested, to tie their hands in that way. If the clause were passed in its present form their hands would be tied. The local authority would have two kind of schools to deal with—the schools it provided itself and the schools it found provided by someone else. These latter schools would be dealt with under Clause 8. The natural construction of this clause, if they left in the word secular, would be to exclude the local authority from having any control over the religious instruction to be given in elementary schools. The Vice-President shook his head, and perhaps he might have some subtle argument to cover that point. The right hon. Gentleman might say that that would be one of the powers to be handed over; but there were powers now possessed by the School Boards, such as the power of managing the schools themselves without appointing a manager, which would not be handed over to the education authority. The natural construction of the clause would be that the general power possessed by the School Boards of providing for religious education would be negatived by the fact that secular education only could be given under this clause. It was clear that that ambiguity should be removed, and the natural and simple way to effect that, would be to use words covering all kinds of instruction, letting subsequent clauses limit, in any way that might be necessary, that general power. He did not think his hon. and learned friend thought that they could solve the religious

difficulty with his Amendment. Far from it. It would only mean taking one step on the path leading to that quagmire, but they would not help themselves by leaving in the word "secular." He was not going into the various solutions which had been suggested. One was that the local authority should have power, as in Scotland, to give or not to give religious instruction in the schools provided by itself. In Scotland some of the School Boards gave religious instruction and some did not, and he believed that in some of the western islands Roman Catholic instruction was given because the population was almost entirely Roman Catholic. Another solution was that there should be power to give unsectarian instruction, as was now given by most of the School Boards under the Cowper-Temple Clause. There was a third suggestion that the local authorities should have the duty imposed on them of giving some kind of religious instruction with a conscience clause; and there was a fourth suggestion that the local authorities should be responsible for providing different kinds of religious instruction. He was not at all without hope that, in spite of the difficulty of the question, if they gave themselves a little time before they entered on the discussion of that thorny matter, they might arrive at a solution which would greatly diminish the difficulty. All that the Amendment said was that they should not, at that initial stage, tie their hands, or in any way preclude themselves from coming to an ultimate decision on the question. All the Amendment meant was whether, at that stage, they ought to decide to restrict the powers of the local authority; and he hoped the Committee would regard the matter from that point of view.

SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said the hon. and learned Member moved his Amendment with an air of simplicity which was very amusing. From end to end of the country they had schools attended by the majority of the school-going population for the sake of the religious instruction given in them; and in his own constituency it was well known that the people were so much attached to schools in which a definite religious education was given that, in spite of the severe competition of the Board Schools supported out of the rates, the majority of the children attended the

voluntary schools. If the Amendment were passed, it would appear as if the local authority, which had no definite religious character, were to control religious education in all classes of schools. It would be better to leave the question open by enacting that the local authority should control secular education; and then the schools not managed in connection with any denomination might be arranged for afterwards. He objected to the Amendment because it would impose on the denominational schools, of which he had been a supporter during all the years he had been in Parliament, an authority which had no claim to control religious education at all.

SIR WILLIAM MATHER (Lancashire, Rossendale) said he wished to ask the Vice-President whether, under the Clause as it stood, it would be competent for the local authority, who were to be the heirs of the School Board, to give unsectarian religious instruction. If not, then it amounted to this—the local educational authority in the future could give no religious instruction whatsoever unless in denominational schools, which instruction might be dogmatic and purely sectarian. The speech of the right hon. Member for South Aberdeen was a very important one, and the Amendment was not, as the last speaker appeared to think, a quibble, nor an attempt to get rid of the religious question altogether. It was a practical question affecting the proper education of all children in this country who did not go to denominational schools. It was a common opinion, held by all Members of that House, that some form of ethical training, which was often in the best sense of the word religious training, should be given to the children, and he asked the Vice-President whether the new local authority under that Bill, if it became an Act, would be able in the presence of that word “secular” to conduct unsectarian religious education.

SIR JOHN GORST said that in the course of the debate that evening he had been repeatedly astonished at the ingenuity of hon. Members in raising objections to the words of the Clause; but he thought the most extraordinary objection which had yet been raised was that contained in the speech of the right

hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen, which, however, he answered himself. As far as the Government were concerned they had no doubt that by the transference of the powers of School Boards to local authorities the latter would be able in the schools which had been provided by the School Boards or by themselves to give such religious instruction as was permitted by the Elementary Education Acts—that was to say, religious instruction which did not contain any catechism or formulary distinctive of a particular religious denomination.

*(10.35.) MR. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) said he wished for many reasons to controvert the statement of the Vice-President. If the Vice-President were right in his view, he could not understand why they should have provided that the local authorities should have all the powers and duties of the School Boards, and then proceed to state that they should have the control of all secular education. Was that reasonable? If the Clause as it was now worded were to be construed by any court of law, it would, in his opinion, hold that the powers and duties of the School Boards which were transferred were confined to secular instruction, and that the local authorities had not the power which the Vice-President thought they ought to have. He wished to ask the Committee, Was it wise, at that stage of the Bill, to tie their hands in regard to the matter? Surely they ought to provide that the local education authority should have some control over religious instruction. That power ought to be lodged in some authority, otherwise there would be absolutely no control under the Clause with regard to religious education in these schools. That ought not to be and was never intended to be. Surely it was not necessary at the present moment to lay down any particular line with regard to any particular instruction to be given in these schools. It seemed to him to be very desirable that the power of giving unsectarian religious instruction ought to be clearly preserved by the terms of the Clause, and the easiest way of effecting that was by leaving out the word “secular.” That would give the local education

authority all the power necessary without laying down any particular kind of treatment in regard to the matter, or determining at the present moment what kind of religious instruction should be given. Unsectarian religious instruction had worked remarkably well in this country, and School Boards had succeeded, by means of it, in doing enormous work. He challenged anyone who had taken the trouble to examine the condition of education now as compared with thirty years ago, to deny that proposition. In the large towns, where unsectarian religious instruction had been mostly given, crime had diminished to an extent which was somewhat startling, and the general condition of the people had vastly improved. When he first went on the Midland circuit he remembered seeing from 90 to 100 prisoners at the Nottingham Assizes; but the School Boards had gradually brought down crime—mainly by means of unsectarian education—to such an extent that there were now only three or four prisoners at every assizes. The School Boards had brought the people in many places from being little better than savages, into a condition of law-abiding, industrious people. In London an enormous amount of good work had also been done by the School Board. They had succeeded in doing that, because they had appealed for and received the assistance of the parents, and in that way they had been able to bring London into the satisfactory condition it was today. They could not in this country work a system of education unless they enlisted the sympathy of the parents, and unless the parents were given an interest in the education of their children no system would work. He appealed to the Vice-President to consider whether he would not make some suggestion in regard to this matter. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would; because he thought it was of the greatest importance that they should be able to offer, in elementary schools throughout the country, as part of their system of education, Biblical teaching to all children whose parents desired it. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for North-East Manchester said that he and the majority of the people in Manchester were in favour of denominational

schools. Of course, the right hon. Gentleman knew the condition of things in his own constituency, and had said that there was there a very strong feeling in favour of denominational schools; but Mr. Mellor earnestly desired that in all schools where the parents wished it, there should be some unsectarian religious instruction. When they came to deal with the kind of religious education to be given in the denominational schools, they would have to be very careful to see that the particular doctrine taught in a school was the doctrine which that school was intended to teach. If a school professed to teach the doctrines of the Church of England, there ought to be some authority to see that those doctrines were really taught. That was a very serious and important matter, because if they set up, or allowed others to set up, denominational schools, they ought to see that those who taught in the schools acted fairly and behaved honestly. If they empowered a set of people to teach a particular doctrine, they ought to have some means of ascertaining that that doctrine was taught. They ought not to allow a clergyman or any one else to receive money for teaching one doctrine, and then deliberately to set to work to teach another. Doctrines contrary to the Church of England had already been introduced into the Church schools, and when the proper time came, on Clause 8, he hoped the Committee would be able to devise some means of preventing that. If the Amendment were accepted, the result would be to empower the local education authority to give unsectarian religious education, and in these circumstances, he hoped the Committee would accept it.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said that the right hon. Gentleman challenged any lawyer to get up and explain what he would have understood himself if he had had any practical School Board knowledge. He spoke, not as a lawyer, but as having served on the London School Board, and as knowing something of how the work was carried on. If the right hon. Gentleman could not find time to wade through the reports of the School Board, he would recommend him to read the life of the late W. H. Smith,

and in Volume II. he would find that the very first duty the London School Board, other and School Boards in the country, under the Act of 1870, had to undertake was to determine, first, whether they would have any religious instruction at all in their schools, and secondly, if so, what it should be. If that had been the work of the School Boards under the Act of 1870, what was there in this Bill to prevent the bodies which took the place of the School Boards from exercising the same powers and duties in this respect? As to the point raised by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, if he had any difficulty in deciding what were the doctrines of the Church of England, he would find them set forth in the Prayer Book. When any difficulties arose among the members of the oldest educational society in this country as to what the Prayer Book did or did not teach, those difficulties were settled by three Episcopal referees, and he himself would much prefer the Episcopal referees to the august wisdom of the House of Lords or the trained intellect of Cambridge. As the challenge had been thrown out, he simply desired to say that the proper persons to decide any such differences which might arise were the Bishops of the Church, and not any lay tribunal in the House or elsewhere.

DR. MACNAMARA said that the Vice-President had complained of the ingenuity of hon. Members in raising difficulties, but he thought the Committee had a right to complain of the ambiguity of many Clauses in the Bill, and if the right hon. Gentleman would bend his acute intellect to removing that ambiguity, it would tend to the better transaction of business. As he understood the Clause, it was to provide that the local authority, in its own schools and in the schools wholly transferred to it, should have entire control of the secular and religious instruction, the latter of which should be subject to the Cowper-Temple Clause, and therefore unsectarian. But in regard to denominational schools, the purport of the Clause, he gathered, was that the local authority should have entire control of the secular instruction, but no control of the religious instruction. For his part, he was not prepared to

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upset, through this Bill, the system of denominational religious instruction in the denominational schools. He did not think they could do it, and if they attempted it they would simply go back into the wilderness for another twenty years, and nothing would be done to tackle this crying evil. If they were beginning afresh, he would have unsectarian religious instruction universally, which he believed satisfied the bulk of the parents of the country, and which, if they were left alone, they would acclaim. But they were not beginning again, and they had got to do the best they could with the existing system. But the Clause did not give what its authors desired, because of its ambiguity. It was no part of the duty of a School Board to give religious instruction of any sort. Therefore, if the Clause were left in its present form, and the word "secular" emphasised, what would be the result? They would emphasise the fact—a fact not generally known, even to School Boards—that they could confine themselves to secular instruction alone. That he would deplore. But unsectarian religious instruction would not be secured in the schools of the local authority by simply leaving the first part of the Clause as it stood. The whole difficulty, however, would be removed, and they would arrive at what the Government themselves desired, if the Clause were to run in this way—

"The local education authority shall, throughout their area, have the powers and duties of a School Board and a School Attendance Committee under the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1890, and the control of all secular instruction in the public elementary schools not provided by or transferred to them."

A sharp distinction would then be drawn; and while, in the publicly maintained schools, the local authority would have control over the secular instruction, with power to give unsectarian religious instruction, their powers in the other schools would be confined purely to the secular instruction, and the denominationalists would be free to give their own denominational teaching.

MR. ABEL THOMAS thought the Vice-President could hardly have considered his own Bill. The first part of the Clause clearly and distinctly gave the local authority all the

powers of the School Board, but the commencement of the next sentence showed that something was intended contrary to that provided in the previous sentence. He could not follow the argument that secular instruction meant unsectarian religious instruction. Unless this Amendment were adopted, the Clause would state that the authority, which had the powers of the School Board, would be able to give, not unsectarian religious instruction, but secular instruction, and that meant that they could not give the other. He was inclined to think it would be unwise to interfere with the old arrangement, under which the denominations had power to deal with the religious instruction given in the schools provided by themselves; but it was clear that by this Clause the new authority would be prevented from dealing with schools provided by itself. The word "secular" clearly limited the power, and he should, therefore, vote for the Amendment.

(11.0.) MR. LYTTTELTON (Warwick and Leamington) thought the interpretation of the word given by the Vice-President was perfectly sound. He contended that the control of unsectarian religious instruction was not excluded, because by the first part of the Clause the new education authorities were given the entire powers of the School Boards, and those powers were not limited by the words of the second part of the Clause.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion) said there was no difference of opinion as to what was desired; the only question was whether the object was secured by this Clause. It was agreed that such religious instruction as the School Board might now give should be permitted in the future, and that the local education authority should have power to control that religious education. According to the Vice President, the word "secular" meant religious instruction, provided it was undenominational.

SIR JOHN GORST: I did not say that.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS thought the right hon. Gentleman argued that it included unsectarian religious instruction.

SIR JOHN GORST: I never said the word "secular" included religious instruction.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said that at any rate the right hon. Gentleman recognised that the local education authority should in the future have the same power as the School Boards had had in the past in regard to the giving of unsectarian religious instruction. Unless the word "secular" included such religious instruction, it was clear that by this Clause they would be precluded from giving it. The word "secular" was used in contradistinction to the word "religious," and secular instruction meant instruction which was not religious. If that was so, how was it possible to argue that by giving the control of secular education they did not withhold the control of religious education? And if the control of religious education was withheld, they also withheld the control of undenominational religious instruction. The only way out of the difficulty was that suggested by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, viz., to confine the operation of this sentence to schools not provided by the local authority.

MR. CHARLES MCARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) thought there was no difference of opinion as to the merits of unsectarian teaching; the difficulty had arisen entirely out of the slipshod way in which the Clause had been drafted. It would be a most dangerous and unfortunate thing if, through any doubt in the wording of the Bill, the excellence of unsectarian religious teaching should be imperilled. All that was desired was fair play between denominational and undenominational schools. That the Christian instruction given in board schools was excellent, was shown by the fact that scholars belonging to the board schools in Liverpool had again and again won prizes for Biblical knowledge over the heads of scholars who had been taught in the denominational schools. It was said that that teaching was not imperilled, because the School Board had the power at present to give this undenominational religious teaching, and that power was to be continued to the new authorities. But he believed it was the case that in

the construction of Acts of Parliament general words were limited by particular words that followed. In that case, was there not some danger that, although a Court of Law might find that it was in the power of a School Board to give undenominational instruction, yet when it came to the words that the education authority was to have the control of secular education it would find that the latter words limited the former? As a layman, he was afraid there was a danger of that construction being placed upon the word. Unless some assurance was given that, either in this Clause or in some other part of the Bill, this doubt would be removed, he would be compelled to vote for the Amendment.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE suggested that the clause would read a great deal better if the words "and the control of all secular instruction in public elementary schools, whether provided by them or not" were left out. The clause would then simply become a clause to transfer to the new authority the existing powers and duties of School Boards and School Attendance Committees. The hon. Member who had just sat down agreed that the words introduced a certain ambiguity about the religious instruction. The words either added or subtracted from the powers transferred, and they had to ask themselves very closely what the words really meant. If there was something which the Government wished to insert which was not contained in Section 8, would it not be better to put some general words at the commencement of Section 8? He had the advantage not long ago of hearing this question discussed by the members of the County Councils' Association of England, and they were of the opinion that these words were unnecessary.

SIR JOHN GORST appealed to the Committee whether it was worth while to go on discussing questions of drafting, when they were practically agreed as to the lines on which they wished to proceed. Before the Report stage, the questions raised would be considered by law officers of the Crown and

draftsmen and people of authority of that kind, and he had no doubt the result would be that the Government would be able to meet the House with either an official legal defence of the clause as it stood, or with such modification as would bring it into accordance with what were the wishes of both Government and Committee.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that he had always understood that the Committee stage was the proper time to thresh out questions of this kind. Because they had been discussing this matter for about one hour and a half, the right hon. Gentleman now asked the Committee to proceed to a division. He wished to know what they were going to decide upon. The point they had to decide was whether they were agreed about the substance of this proposal, and the very thing they ought to do was to put that substance in appropriate Act of Parliament phraseology. The clause was very clumsily worded. With regard to the powers of the authority over secular instruction, he would vote for the exclusion of the word "secular." Where did the Government get it from? It was not in the Elementary Education Act of 1870. He disliked the word in respect of instruction, just as much as he disliked the distinction drawn between sacred and secular music. This provision would not shut out from aided schools any definite religious instruction at all. Suppose the managers of a particular school believed in high Ritualism, which would be obnoxious at any rate to one of the hon. Members for Liverpool, and the hon. Member for the Sowerby Division. In such a case surely the local education authority ought to be able to exercise some control over the religious instruction in that school. In this instance the managers might decline to interfere because they did not wish to make themselves disagreeable to the teachers. He went so far as to say that in all schools there ought to be a certain amount of control by the local authority in regard to all the instruction. They might, nevertheless, say that, with regard to aided schools within certain lines, certain definite religious formulæ might be taught, but that was not sufficient to take away entirely from the local authority all control. The

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drafting was bad, and some control and supervision ought to be retained over all the schools by the local authority, and for those reasons he should support the Amendment.

SIR RICHARD JEBB (Cambridge University) suggested that the wording of the clause might be made perfectly clear if it provided that the local education authority should have "the control of all instruction in public elementary schools provided by themselves and of all secular instruction in schools not so provided."

MR. CORRIE GRANT said the Amendment just suggested did not cover the real difficulty put forward from that side of the Committee. What was really wanted was an Amendment to read in this way—"and the control of all secular instruction in public elementary schools not provided by them." That would cover denominational schools, which was, as he understood, the intention of the Government.

(11.25.) MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the Amendment suggested by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University was a considerable improvement, for it cleared up the point as to whether the new authority would be deprived of the powers exercised by School Boards. To his mind, however, there was a deeper point than that. The words "responsibility for and control of" had been introduced into the clause by the Prime Minister, and that made a considerable difference. He should like to know if the new authority was to have any responsibility at all in regard to religious instruction in the denominational schools. Control and management might be a different matter, but was the local authority to have no responsibility whatever for religious instruction in British schools or even in Anglican schools? The hon. Member opposite had told the Committee that the scriptural instruction in some denominational schools was very deficient, and they had heard that in Liverpool the scriptural instruction in the board schools was superior to that given in the denominational schools. It was a fact that in some denominational schools

there was hardly any scriptural instruction at all. Was the local authority to have no responsibility for quickening the efforts of voluntary schools in regard to religious instruction? More than half the children of the land were taught in these schools, and they were constantly being told by the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich that religious education was by far the most important part of the instruction of a child. Was it suggested that religious education should be withdrawn from the cognisance of the local authority? Were they going to confine the local authority to secondary instruction, and give it no power to make any suggestion with regard to the religious instruction in denominational schools? Was the local education authority to have no restraining influence upon the religious instruction given in denominational schools? As far as England was concerned, the local authorities would be dominated by men who believed in denominational instruction, and they would simply have the lay element instead of the clerical element. At a Church of England school in Cardiff the pupils were taught a form of catechism highly offensive to the vast majority of people who maintained the school, and the Town Council should have some control in a matter of that kind. That catechism would be taught in the school he had alluded to, and he wished to know whether the Town Council of Cardiff, under this Bill would have the right to restrain the teaching of a catechism of that kind which was offensive to the vast majority of the people who maintained the school. Therefore, this question went much deeper than a purely drafting question. All they sought was that in this country the local education authority should have that power which was given to it in every other country in the world. There was not another single case in the world where the control and management of denominational education was not subject to the control of the education authority. In Germany, Switzerland, Ontario, Quebec, and in every other country except England, the municipality controlled the instruction, even where it was purely denominational; and why were they not

allowed in this country to have a voice in the denominational and the religious instruction which was considered by some hon. Gentlemen opposite to be more important for the training of the

character of the children than any other kind of education.

(11.33.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 96. (Division List No. 290.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)	Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas	MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.	Fisher, William Hayes	Maconochie, A. W.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte	Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry	MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel	Flower, Ernest	M'Govern, T.
Allhusen, Augustus Henry E.	Flynn, James Christopher	M'Kean, John
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Forster, Henry William	M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Arkwright, John Stanhope	Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.	Manners, Lord Cecil
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.	Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.	Martin, Richard Biddulph
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John	Galloway, William Johnson	Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
Bagot, Capt. Joseline FitzRoy	Gardner, Ernest	Milvain, Thomas
Bain, Colonel James Robert	Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick	Morgan, David J. (Walthamst'w
Baird, John George Alexander	Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn	Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'th-sh.)
Balcarres, Lord	Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon	Morrell, George Herbert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r	Goschen, Hon. George Joachim	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)	Goulding, Edward Alfred	Mount, William Arthur
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Banbury, Frederick George	Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks	Greene, W. Raymond. (Cambs.	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.	Gretton, John	Myers, William Henry
Biggild, Arthur	Greville, Hon. Ronald	Nannetti, Joseph P.
Blundell, Colonel Henry	Hall, Edward Marshall	Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Bond, Edward	Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.	Nicholson, William Graham
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Hare, Thomas Leigh	Nicol, Donald Ninian
Brassey, Albert	Harrington, Timothy	Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John	Harris, Frederick Leverton	O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu	Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.	O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Brotherton, Edward Allen	Hayden, John Patrick	O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
Bull, William James	Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
Butcher, John George	Heath, James (Staffords, N. W.	O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)	Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.	O'Malley, William
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.	Higginbottom, S. W.	O'Mara, James
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire	Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.	Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)	Hogg, Lindsay	O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside	Pemberton, John S. G.
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r	Howard, Jn. (Kent, Faversham	Penn, John
Chapman, Edward	Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse	Percy, Earl
Charrington, Spencer	Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton	Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer	Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Plummer, Walter R.
Clancy, John Joseph	Joyce, Michael	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Clive, Captain Percy A.	Kennedy, Patrick James	Power, Patrick Joseph
Cochrane, Hn. Thomas H. A. E.	Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)	Pretyman, Ernest George
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.	Purvis, Robert
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Kimber, Henry	Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	King, Sir Henry Seymour	Randles, John S.
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.	Ratchiff, R. F.
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge	Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.	Reddy, M.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)	Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th	Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Crossley, Sir Savile	Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)	Redmond, William (Clare)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Lawson, John Grant	Reid, James (Greenock)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham	Remnant, James Farquharson
Delany, William	Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage	Renshaw, Charles Bine
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-	Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge
Doogan, P. C.	Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S	Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Duke, Henry Edward	Lowe, Francis William	Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin	Loyd, Archie Kirkman	Round, Rt. Hon. James
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart	Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)	Royds, Clement Molyneux
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton	Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth	Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward	London, W.	Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mane'r	Lytelton, Hon. Alfred	Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Field, William	Macdonald, John Cumming	Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Finch, George H.	MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.	Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne	MacIver, David (Liverpool)	Seton-Karr, Henry

Mr. Lloyd-George.

Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, H.C. (North'mb. Tyneside)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Lord (Lance.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. (Taggart)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollernache, Henry James

Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willcox, Sir John Archibald

Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harwood, George

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Readall
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Priestley, Arthur
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.

Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Welleseley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg'n Gower)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wodehouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Brynmor Jones and
Sir William Mather.

*(11.45.) MR. PRIESTLEY (Gran-
tham), in moving an Amendment
providing that the local education
authority should have the control of
all secular "and physical" instruction,
said that if justification for introducing
this subject into the Bill was required, it
would be found in the omission from
the Bill of any clause dealing with a
subject which to him, and, he thought,
to many in that House as well as in the
country, was one of some importance.
In applying the term "physical," he
thought it was essential that it should be
differentiated from any form of military
training. He did not think the education
authorities would be justified in employ-
ing public funds for the purpose of

establishing in public elementary schools
any form of military training. His
object was to see the application of
a system of scientific physical instruction
that had for its purport the efficient
development of the physique of the child,
and the consequent higher standard of
general health and vigour. It was an
opinion held by many to whom the
subject was one of interest that the
physique of our town-bred population
was, if not seriously deteriorating, at
least not maintaining that satisfactory
standard of capability which it is highly
desirable it should possess. The English
people were generally supposed to be a
very practicable people, but in many
respects we entirely failed, or refused to

attempt, to apply to the ordinary conditions of life many necessary and beneficial methods of action, and he thought that in the case of our neglect to afford physical as well as intellectual instruction to the masses of the children of the nation was found a forcible illustration. In Sweden, a country which possessed possibly the healthiest people in Europe, the question of the scientific physical education of the youth of the country was considered, and rightly so, most necessary to the general well-being and happiness of the people. In New Zealand also, only recently a Bill had been introduced into their Legislative Assembly, a Bill dealing with this question on the lines he had suggested. Amongst what was termed the upper and the wealthy classes in England, this question of physical development was considered to be a very necessary portion of the child's education, but so far as those in the future would form the large wage-earning classes of the community, we entirely ignored the necessity of affording them, during the years of their growth, the best guarantee from a physical point of view of future energy and efficiency. The State had taken upon itself the responsibility of providing to some extent for the intellectual and moral training of its children, and he thought that it should also recognise that it owed at least a similar duty to the bodily health and physical strength of those whose circumstances in life did not enable them to participate in those forms of physical training and recreation which others more favourably placed were enabled to enjoy. The industrial future of this country would possibly necessitate a greater display of energy and vitality on the part of the labouring classes in the country than had been the case during

Mr. Priestley.

recent years, and he thought the State would not be doing full justice to its future citizens if it neglected, as far as legitimately lay in its power, to equip them with every weapon intellectual, moral, and physical, to enable them to maintain that position among the nations which it was now our proud privilege to possess.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 35, after the word 'secular,' to insert the words 'and physical.'"—(*Mr. Priestley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WHITLEY trusted that the Government intended to make some reference to this subject. Possibly it might be better dealt with by a subsequent Amendment, or a clause might be introduced, dealing with it by itself—

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

PAUPER CHILDREN (IRELAND) BILL [LORDS].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1.

Committee report progress; to sit again Tomorrow.

Adjourned at ten minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 15th July, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

FINCHLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table: The Orders made on 20th of June last and 3rd instant discharged; and Bill committed for Thursday next.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.
Reported, with Amendments.

CROYDON AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS BILL.
Reported, with Amendments.

EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL.
Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL,
CLEETHORPES IMPROVEMENT BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE BILL [H.L.]
Returned from the Commons, agreed to.

EDUCATIONAL BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (BARNES, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments.

NORTH BRITISH RAILWAY (GENERAL POWERS) BILL,

NOTTINGHAM AND RETFORD RAILWAY BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

VOL. CXI. [FOURTH SERIES.]

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 14th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday, the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

ROTHERSAY TRAMWAYS (EXTENSION) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 151.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INDIA (FAMINE).

Papers regarding the famine and the relief operations in India during 1900-1902:—

Vol. I. British Districts.

Vol. II. Native States.

Trade Reports:—

I. Annual Series—

No. 2851. Germany (Frankfort-on-Main;

No. 2852. Austria-Hungary;

No. 2853. Mexico (Vera Cruz):

II. Miscellaneous Series—

No. 578. Trade and Economic State of Vilayet of Tripoli during the past forty years.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE GALWAY.

Annual Report of the President, for the Session 1901-1902.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS ACT, 1901.

Summary Jurisdiction Rules, made by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

K

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES) (IRELAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without further Amendment. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House to be received on Thursday next.

SHOP CLUBS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No 150.)

SOUTH AFRICA—FACILITIES FOR BRITISH SETTLERS.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN, who had given notice "to call attention to the desirability of offering facilities and inducements to British subjects, both male and female, to settle in South Africa; to ask what measures have been adopted towards that end; and to urge that regulations with regard to grants of land, assisted passages, etc., should be officially published throughout the Empire with as little delay as possible," said:—My Lords, I have placed this notice upon your Lordships' Paper because I have received numerous inquiries from persons in England and Scotland asking if I could tell them what are the terms of settlement in the new Colonies in South Africa. There are, I am sure, a great many persons, possessed of small capital, who would be willing to try their fortunes there if they had the opportunity, but it is only cautious and prudent on their part not to make any move until they know the terms of settlement and the chances of obtaining land from the Government when they arrive. I am quite sure there will be no difference of opinion in this House as to the desirability, and, indeed, the importance, of strengthening the British element in the new colonies and especially in the rural districts, for hitherto, even in the older colonies, the tendency has been for the British settlers to concentrate in the towns, and leave the rural life for the most part to the Dutch. Even in such portions of Cape Colony as the north-west, as we know to our cost, there has been a concentration of Dutch influence and of

Dutch inhabitants, and the result has been by no means favourable to British supremacy. Now we are entering on a new state of things altogether, and in quite another part of the country. In the Orange Free State, owing to the wise and prudent legislation and the liberal form of Government which existed, there were a certain number of British settlers, and British names will be found in considerable numbers. Among them I might mention, perhaps, Mr. Fraser, who was, at the last election, a candidate for the Presidency of the Orange Free State; and if he had been elected I believe that State would have been in existence at the present time. But in the Transvaal, however, things were quite different. There the object of the Government and the whole tendency of legislation and the administrative action of the Executive were in the direction of diminishing British influence and reducing the number of British settlers. We know what the result was. When the war broke out we had to face an almost united people against us, but now, my Lords, a different state of things has come to pass, and it is because this is a favourable moment for introducing a large British element into South Africa that I venture to bring this before your Lordships as a subject which I believe to be of urgent public importance.

Up to the present the information I have been able to obtain has been of the most fragmentary character. I know that in both of the new Colonies and also in Rhodesia there are at the present time a large number of private land companies who have issued statements saying that they are prepared to receive British settlers on very favourable terms. Quite independently of that, there is, of course, the British Administration at Pretoria and at Bloemfontein. They have, if they choose to use them, excellent opportunities, and I know that Lord Milner and all those who act with him are extremely anxious to obtain British settlers. My complaint, such as it is, is that it is very difficult to arrive at any trustworthy information on this subject. Indeed, the only extracts I have been able to collect have appeared in the Press since I placed this Question on your Lordships' Paper. One is a Reuter's telegram, dated July 9th, stating that a

policy of small farms, in the case of settlers taking up Government land, has been decided upon by Sir H. Goold-Adams, and that the Government have at their disposal thousands of acres, which are increasing by purchase and by the lapse of leases of Government farms. With regard to Pretoria, a letter appeared in the *Standard* from that paper's special correspondent, in which it is stated that the Transvaal Land Settlement Board proposes to settle men in small colonies of twenty or thirty; each colony to be composed partly of men of South African experience, and partly of immigrants from Great Britain and the British Colonies. The correspondent goes on to say that the class of settlers desired will be the small capitalist with £300 and farming experience, married men being preferred. Special facilities will be given for the passage of settlers' wives and families. The correspondent adds that the Government owns 5,600,000 morgen in the Transvaal. Though a large portion of that is not very suitable for agriculture, yet at the same time the amount of land in Lord Milner's hands is very large, and there must also be derelict farms and opportunities of acquiring land cheaply by purchase. I think, therefore, that it is very desirable that at this moment we should know exactly what is proposed and what is going to be done.

I would further point out to your Lordships that South Africa presents unexampled advantages as a station for one of the Army Corps. For a long time to come it will be necessary to keep a large body of troops in the new Colonies, and the position is unrivalled for manœuvres and matters of that sort. The climate also is, on the whole, a good one, and if an Army Corps was stationed there, you would hold the central position in the Empire which guards the long sea route, the freedom of which is absolutely essential for our trade. I have only, in conclusion, to press two points on the attention of your Lordships. The first is that all these agencies, private and official, ought to be co-ordinated and thoroughly organised, so that they may work together and everybody may know what they are doing. In the second place, I hope that His Majesty's Government will have their measures and their conditions of settlement, whatever they may be, clearly

stated and published broadly throughout the whole Empire. I believe it is essential, if you wish to get Scotchmen and Englishmen to emigrate, that they should be told clearly the terms upon which they will go out. A great many persons, if they know that the Government has promised certain terms, will be prepared to take risks which they certainly will not think of doing so long as those terms are unknown to them. It is most important that the terms should be published over here. It is possible that something of them may be known in South Africa; but I venture to think that they are not known here, and the sooner they are published in this country the better. In making these remarks I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not make any complaint whatever against Lord Milner and those working with him. No one is more sensible than I am of the fact that these men have done work for the Empire which is invaluable, and that they have gone through labours which have been almost beyond human endurance. But it is only right to point out that now is the time to get the men before the land is occupied, and that at this moment there is an excellent opportunity, if it be seized, of extending British influence and British settlers in South Africa.

***LORD WINDSOR:** My Lords, before my noble friend the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies answers the question put to him by the noble Earl, I should like to say a few words on this subject, and to join in urging upon the Government the extreme importance at this moment, not only of formulating schemes of land settlement, but of giving them the stamp of Government authority. The administrators of the Colonies have a difficult task before them, and if we have in this country young and industrious farmers, with a certain amount of capital at their command, both ready and willing to become settlers in South Africa, it does seem to me of great importance that they should be enabled in as easy a way as possible, to take their place in the building up and the development of that country. The noble Earl has referred to certain information which is known in South Africa, and he quoted from a newspaper a statement with regard to the land settlement scheme in

the Transvaal. I would, for a moment, draw your Lordships' attention to what has been done in the Orange River Colony. So long ago as the end of last year a Land Settlement Board was formed under the Administrator of the Orange River Colony, and the office of this Board was established in Bloemfontein. In March last inquiries were made of the Secretary of the Orange River Colony Administration about the scheme of land settlements, and a reply was received from Mr. Wilson, the Secretary, in which he stated that he had referred the letter to the Secretary of the Land Settlement Board, and he enclosed his reply. In this reply, after stating that in the then condition of affairs and the unsettled state of the country it was not possible to formulate any practical scheme, the writer proceeded—

"I enclose a summary of the proposed terms under which approved settlers can occupy and acquire land. These terms have not been finally decided upon, and there is every reason to expect that the main conditions therein contained will be adopted. I understand that a hand book for the Orange River Colony is being prepared, containing all necessary information for settlers, and will be obtainable when ready at the office of the Emigration Information Bureau at Westminster."

Having made inquiries at the Emigration Information Bureau, I learn that this hand-book has not yet been published, but it is likely to be published within the next three or four weeks. What I want to draw the attention of the House to is the fact that a good deal of information seems to have been issued in South Africa, not only in regard to the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, but also, I believe, as to the terms offered by the Chartered Company in Rhodesia, and by others in Natal; but this information is, as Lord Camperdown has said, of too vague a character to attract respectable young farmers in this country, and it is not likely that they will take the risk—it is hardly right that they should do so—of going out to South Africa and investing their capital on terms which are not quite certain. I have seen it stated that it is not desirable at this moment to take steps to import any large number of British subjects into the South African Colonies.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: Hear, hear!

Lord Windsor.

*LORD WINDSOR: And the incredible argument has been used that it is proposed, for the purpose of getting a dominant British element in South Africa, in order to swamp the Dutch element. Such a suggestion is now preposterous. There is no question whatever of a dominant influence. There is an opportunity now which there never has been before of developing the resources of South Africa, and it is clearly the duty of His Majesty's Government to see that some of the best elements of the over-crowded population of this country should be able to take advantage of the resources of the South African Colonies. I am not blaming the Government in any way; for aught I know, the Government are engaged on this question. I only wish to emphasise the points raised by my noble friend, and to urge the Government to let the public know what they are doing, for unless they very shortly make their scheme public they will be unable to take advantage of the services of young farmers and promising young future colonists at the present time when they are very much needed.

LORD LOVAT: My Lords, the two noble Lords who have preceded me have approached the subject from a civilian point of view. I wish to say a word or two from the point of view of the soldiers who have been fighting in South Africa. The noble Earl's question divides itself into two parts. First of all, it calls attention to the desirability of offering facilities and inducements to British subjects to settle in South Africa; and, secondly, urges that regulations with regard to grants of land should be officially published. So far as the soldiers in South Africa are concerned, the terms upon which they can settle in that country have been issued and are well understood throughout the Army. I regret to say that those terms are such, and are so well understood, that the British soldier who has been fighting out there does not think they are worthy of consideration. They are a class of men who are anxious to settle in South Africa, but have only the capital they have saved during the war. The average soldier, in the Yeomanry especially, has saved from £70

to £150. But, according to the official statement, a capital of £300 is required as the minimum. Therefore no facilities are given in the scheme which has been published in South Africa, and which, I understand, will be laid before the House today, to a class of persons who are surely a valuable asset in the new Colonies, because no man with less than £300 can purchase sufficient land to live upon. In the whole of the Orange River Colony a thousand complete teams of oxen are allowed for the repatriation scheme, the average price per team being £250. A man cannot plough his land without oxen, and therefore he will require an additional sum for this purpose and to erect a house in which to live. There is no lack of land in South Africa, either in the Transvaal or in the Orange River Colony, but what I wish particularly to bring to the notice of the House is, that there is little or no inducement offered to the soldierly element to settle in the country. There is room to settle almost any number of men, but at present, outside the towns, there is an overwhelming number of Boers, who completely swamp the British settlers. In order to change this, and to get the people we want, we must offer very much better terms than any at present suggested. I desire to support the suggestion of the noble Earl who initiated this discussion in favour of the unification of method, and the bringing of all the schemes together. By this means, and by the offering of better terms, it will be possible to get British settlers where they are very much needed. After all, we ought to do something for the men out there who have fought our battles and who are ready to settle in the country if they are given the opportunity. I have been amongst the men, and I believe if money were brought to support their enthusiasm and patriotism we should have a most desirable number of settlers. I calculate that for an expenditure of £4,000,000 a minimum of 5,000 persons could be settled, who, without some such assistance, will be likely to become, eventually, members of that most objectionable class known as "poor whites."

***LORD RIBBLESDALE:** My Lords, I do not propose, in the few remarks I have to make, to follow the noble

and gallant Lord, whom we are so glad to welcome back from his dashing and successful service in South Africa, into the discouragements which he perceives to reside in the terms offered to the military community to settle in South Africa. I will address the little I have to say to the civilian settler question. The noble Lord who spoke first referred to the north-west portion of Cape Colony. I myself went out to South Africa and travelled through that part of the country. I went from Malmesbury to Lamberts Bay, right through the farming country. I had a sort of roving commission on behalf of some friends of mine in Craven, in the West Riding of Yorkshire—a great stock raising and sheep-farming district—to use my eyes as best I could and to tell them what I thought about the country. I have been, as it were, brought up on the land. I have lost money on the land and made a little money on the land, and one can hardly help picking up something here and there. I went about a good deal when in South Africa, and had the advantage of talking over these things with the Intelligence Officer of Colonel Kavanagh's column, who was himself a very large farmer in the Orange Free State. In addition, I had the further advantage of stopping for a night or two, when we were on trek, at large farms. I had, therefore, the opportunity of forming some opinion about the country, though, of course, mine were mere bird-of-passage impressions. Lord Camperdown spoke of the desirability of encouraging British settlers in South Africa. I do not suppose anyone would dispute the fact that that would be a most desirable thing, if it could be carried out, nor would anyone dispute the value of the suggestions as to the unification and concentration of effort, so that intending settlers should know to a tolerable degree of certainty what help they were likely to get from the Government when they got out there. But I am bound to say that, in my opinion, there is no great hurry. The Dutch are, and must continue to be, the agricultural backbone of South Africa, and I believe that is what you have to strengthen and elasticise. The noble Earl also spoke of rural life in South Africa. If anyone went out there

expecting to find what is generally understood as rural life here, he would have to completely remodel his ideas on a great many subjects. The rural life in South Africa is very different from that described in Goldsmith's poem during the happier days of Sweet Auburn before wealth accumulated and men decayed. The rural life in many parts of South Africa is more like that enjoyed by Alexander Selkirk on his desert island. No doubt money is to be made, but I believe the ordinary small farmer who went out to South Africa would fare very badly. He would find very little distraction in the French sense of the word, and a good deal in the English sense. These considerations, I think, are all in favour of delay. I should not advise any one to go out there unless he was able to take with him, in addition to the money he proposes to put into his farm, sufficient to support himself for twelve months or so, so that he might have a good look round before investing either his own or the Government loan money.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I rise to support what has been said by my noble friend Lord Camperdown and by the noble Lord beside me, Lord Windsor, the President of the South African Association, of the Committee of which I have the honour to be a member. I do not see why the noble Lord opposite should throw cold water on the suggestion of British settlers going to South Africa. All British settlers who have gone to a new country have generally had to look round for twelve months—

***LORD RIBBLESDALE:** I tried to distinguish between haste and speed. I thought the noble Lords who raised this question were rather in a hurry, and there are a great many elements in South Africa which recommend extreme caution.

THE EARL OF MAYO: The effect of the speech of the noble Lord will be to discourage people from going to South Africa. It appears, however, that there is in South Africa a large quantity of very valuable land, and I would suggest that a leaflet should be issued giving

Lord Ribblesdale.

information to people who wish to go out there, and stating where they can apply for further information. The noble Earl spoke of the desirability of getting young Scotsmen and Englishmen to go out and settle in the new colonies, but I venture to think there are also many young farmers in Ireland who desire to take advantage of any favourable terms which may be formulated by the Government. I support the suggestion of bringing all the schemes together, so that the conditions offered may be thoroughly understood.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, this subject is one to which not only the members of the Government at home but the Government of the Transvaal in South Africa attach the highest importance. I think it is only necessary to recall to the minds of your Lordships that in the early stages of the war the Government sent out a Commission, under the presidency of Mr. Arnold-Forster, to inquire generally into the subject. After that they sent out a gentleman of very wide experience in land irrigation in Egypt and India, Mr. Willcocks, who has prepared a very valuable report on the subject. The general consensus of opinion, both of that Commission and Mr. Willcocks, was that the future of farming in South Africa is a very brilliant one indeed. The noble Lord behind me (Lord Windsor) referred to the land board of the Orange River Colony. There are two land boards—one in the Transvaal and the other in the Orange River Colony. They have, however, nothing to do with the repatriation of the Boers. They consist of men of very wide experience, and the board in the Orange River Colony was constituted so long ago as September, 1901. The first idea of the Government, at a time when the country was very much disturbed by the continuance of the war, was that men should be settled temporarily upon such land as the Government was able to get possession of; and a very large number of people were settled temporarily upon the land for market gardening and the cultivation of cereals and stock. A number of those who actually proved that their agricultural experience was such as to promise ultimate success have been permanently settled upon the

land. The experience that the Government gained has been very instructive. A very considerable proportion of those who were temporarily settled on the land have proved their ability to carry on their operations successfully.

There are two conditions which are most important in any kind of land settlement. One is that you should have good land, and the other is that you should have carefully selected settlers. Without these two conditions, no scheme would be a success. I take it that your Lordships will agree with me that throughout the new colonies the whole of the land is under-populated and under-cultivated, and that there is room for a very large number of Settlers. The noble Lord opposite said the Transvaal Government owned a considerable area of land. That is perfectly true; but unfortunately it was almost all in unhealthy and unsuitable parts, and that land, therefore, is not suitable for the purposes which the noble Lord wishes to see fulfilled. Then, in the Orange River Colony the amount of land owned by the Government is extremely small—less than 1 per cent. of the whole. Therefore, the difficulties of obtaining land are very considerable. At the same time, the Government have been on the careful look-out for any land that may come into the market; and they have purchased considerable areas. The land in the Transvaal, as a rule, is heavily mortgaged, and the misfortunes of war have made those mortgages a more onerous burden than they otherwise would be; and no doubt, in the near future, as has happened in the past, a very considerable quantity of land will come on the market from men who want to sell portions of their farms in order to purchase stock with which to stock the rest. Then there is a large area of land held by companies for mining purposes. They do not, of course, particularly desire to utilise the surface rights; and the Government are hoping, in the southern and central parts of the Transvaal, to obtain surface rights over a considerable area of land from those companies. But I quite agree with the noble Lord that, if you are going to carry out a scheme of settlement, you must do so on a large scale, or politically it will be of no use whatever to you.

The Government are quite willing to support Lord Milner in his desire to carry out a scheme on a very large scale. They had previously sanctioned an advance of half a million, and on the 21st June last they sanctioned an expenditure of a further half-million in land settlement. Lord Milner informed us then that he had expended £400,000 in the purchase of land, and was proceeding forthwith to spend another £200,000. The farms in South Africa are of many different kinds, and it is impossible to lay down hard-and-fast rules which will guide you in all cases. There are dry farms—farms of considerable area—which are not available for growing cereals, but are available for running stock. These lands are eagerly sought after by the best class of Colonials you can find—the oversea Colonials, who have been fighting for us in the war. Lord Milner says that, if he had three times as much land to cut up into dry farms, he could find oversea Colonials who would be only too anxious to settle upon it. Then, as regards the land which has been purchased, a great deal of it has already been surveyed. It is no use saying to a man, "You can have some land," and not telling him where it is. You must have the land carefully surveyed, tell him where it is and what are the conditions on which he can take it. Forty or fifty thousand acres have been purchased between Bloemfontein and the Basuto-land border. That has been surveyed and cut up into parts, and the conditions under which it may be leased or purchased have been made widely known in the Colonies. I will deal presently with the reasons why that information has not been circulated in this country as widely as the noble Earl desires.

I will now state what the conditions of lease and purchase are. If the land is to be purchased, it can be purchased by the payment of £5 15s. per cent. of the value. That amount will include purchase money, and will be spread over a period of thirty years, at the end of which time the land will become the freehold of the tenant. If he prefers, he can pay £4 10s. per cent. for a lease of five years, renewable at the tenant's option for a further five, ten, or twenty years. The noble Lord said that there was no provision known in this country

by which the tenant could obtain money to stock and make improvements on his farm. The Government of the Transvaal are prepared to make advances to settlers at the rate of pound per pound on all that they may expend on their farms in improvements, such amount in the case of leases not to exceed five years rental, and in the case of purchase not to exceed half the value of the land. The noble and gallant Lord, who has done such excellent service with the Lovat Scouts in the war, and, not contenting himself with military service, is devoting himself to the settlement of these men upon the land, said that £300 was the minimum with which a man could take up a farm in order to build a house and make the necessary improvements; but he added that many of the men who had been fighting out there, the Yeomen had saved from £100 to £150. If a man is prepared to put down £150, the Government will put down another £150, which will make the £300 which the noble Lord says is essential. Those regulations are not intended to be hard and fast. They are merely experimental, and as we go along we shall, no doubt, have to change them.

The Government at home have the greatest possible confidence in Lord Milner and in his administration. They have given their sanction to those regulations, and they have explained to him that he must utilise them as he thinks fit, that he has practically got a free hand with these regulations. He assures us that every single provision in them has been considered with the greatest care, and after taking the advice of the most practical men in South Africa, including a number of Colonial gentlemen from Australia and New Zealand, who have very wide practical experience of the very successful system of land settlement which obtains in those colonies. I should like to say one word as to the preference which Lord Milner will give to applicants to be put on these farms. In the first place, the claims of members of the South African Constabulary will have precedence. Next preference will be given to men who are members, either of the Yeomanry here at home or of the Regulars or Irregular forces who have been fighting in the war. These claims

The Earl of Onslow.

will come before those of any other persons, before those of any persons who may desire to go out from this country.

LORD LOVAT: Should not the words "all other things being equal" be added?

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: So far as I recollect, subject to their complying with the other conditions, they were to have the preference over anybody else. As I understand, an applicant from the Yeomanry with £300 would have the preference over a man in this country or in South Africa who had £500, although the man with the larger capital might, other circumstances being equal, be the better settler. The reason why we do not intend to publish all over the country the terms that the Transvaal Government and the Orange River Colony Government are prepared to grant to settlers is that Lord Milner has not, and cannot yet have, sufficient land for settling over-sea colonists, Yeomanry, and the members of the Regular forces who are clamouring for land at the present moment. Their claims must be satisfied first, and it would be encouraging undue expectations if we were to lead people in this country to suppose that they had only to go out and make their applications to find farms ready to their hands. I hope that, as time goes on, we shall acquire a sufficient amount of land to settle as many people who desire to go out from this country as are competent settlers. For the moment, however, Lord Milner has not enough land in his possession for the settlement of the South African Constabulary, over-sea colonists, and Regulars, who are desirous of settling. The noble Lord said, I think, that there were too limited a number of oxen for the requirements of the settlers. I am not able to say what the requirements of the settlers are; but I know that His Majesty's Government have appointed a Joint Committee of the Colonial Office and the War Office, which is specially charged to deal with the whole of this subject—the repatriation of the Boers, as well as the settlement of the British upon the land. I have the honour to be the Chairman of that Committee, and therefore I know something about it, and we have taken over from the military authorities a very large quantity

of material. We have taken 2,000 waggons, 14,000 oxen, 4,500 donkeys, 15,000 mules, 1,200 mule wagons, 1,000 Scotch carts, 20 trolleys, 47 traction engines with all their trucks, and all the blockhouses that Lord Kitchener left when he departed from South Africa. That ought, at any rate, to go a long way towards supplying with stock and materials for building houses, not only those whom we are settling on the land, but also the Boers who have to be repatriated.

Both noble Lords desired to see the agencies that may exist, or do exist, for the purposes of settlement in South Africa co-ordinated. Well, we hope very much that there will be a large number of these agencies. There are one or two already. There is, for example, that of Colonel Hill of the Sharpshooters, and there are several others; and I hope that we may look forward in the future to a number of companies and individuals being willing to come forward and stand as intermediaries between the settlers and the Government, to advance money and help the Government to settle people on the land. But as to co-ordinating the agencies, I do not think you can do better than place them all under the administration of Lord Milner's government. That will be a co-ordination which will be simple, and which every one will understand. There is then the question of the settlement of women in South Africa. That question is very far from having been lost sight of. There are several agencies working in that direction, notably the South African Expansion Society. They have sent out a considerable number already, and His Majesty's Government are assisting them so far as lies in their power. We are endeavouring to provide in the transports that are going out accommodation for a certain number of women every week and every month. That accommodation is necessarily limited, because of the difficulty of removing the fittings which have been provided in the transports for the soldiers going to and returning from South Africa. But what can be done will be done, not only in this country, but also by Lord Milner in South Africa, and we hope to send out a number of women every month. I think I have shown that this subject is engaging the

most careful attention of His Majesty's Government and Lord Milner's government; that we are taking up all the land that we possibly can; and that we are putting settlers upon it, preference being given first of all to those who fought in the war and are out there. As soon as that is done, we intend to carry out a land settlement scheme on a large scale; but until we are ready to inform people that there is land for them, I think it would be unwise and premature to give extensive circulation in this country to the terms and conditions of settlement.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: Are you advancing any money to the women?

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: We have asked Lord Milner whether he will be prepared to advance a sum of money against sums of money to be advanced in this country by those who are interested in this movement, for the purpose of the erection of hostels at the ports, and in the new colonies to which women can be sent, and in which they can live until they find situations, or reach the situations found for them. Wherever situations are already prepared for them, we are willing to give them assisted passages.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: Free passages?

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: Free passages, except for the ration money, which is about 27s., and that is found by the societies which are sending out women to South Africa.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Six o'clock, to Thursday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 15th July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BARRY RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

[Not amended], considered; to be read the third time.

NORTH AND SOUTH SHIELDS ELECTRIC RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Consideration, as amended, postponed by the Chairman of Ways and Means under Order [1st May], till Tuesday next at the evening sitting.

YSTRADFELLTE WATER BILL [LORDS].

Read a second time, and committed.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolution reported from the Committee, "That, in the case of the Saddleworth and Springhead Tramways Bill [Lords], Petition for dispensing with Standing Order 129 in the case of the Petition of the 'Limehurst Rural District Council' against the Bill, the said Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with."

Resolution agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

West Gloucestershire Water Bill, without Amendment; Midland Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill, Midland Railway Bill, Norwich Corporation (Electricity, etc.) Bill, Great Central and Midland Railways (South Yorkshire Railways) Bill, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: From Ledbury; Aberamou; Manchester; and Salford; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Adlingfleet; Bexley Heath; Boyton and Cor-ton; Hope Mansel; Shermanbury; Leicester (fourteen); Blackley; Kingston-on-Thames; Launceston; Birken-shaw; Standish (five); Bryngwyn; Hodnet; Stepney; Brook; Lambeth; Birmingham; Newbury; Newton Heath; Limehouse; Leesfield; Eglwys Cummin; and South Wigston; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Bembridge, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION BILL.

Petition from Catford, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).

Copy presented, of Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 271.]

EAST INDIA (NORTH WEST FRONTIER).

Copy presented, of Papers relating to the Mahsud-Waziri Operations on the North-West Frontier of India [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

Copy presented, of Papers regarding the Famine and the Relief Operations in India during 1900-1902. Vol. I. British Districts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (FAMINE).

Copy presented, of Papers regarding the Famine and the Relief Operations in India during 1900-1902. Vol. II. Native States [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE (GALWAY).

Copy presented, of Report of the President for the session 1901-2 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

YOUTHFUL OFFENDERS ACT, 1901.

Copy presented, of Summary Jurisdiction Rules made by the Lord Chancellor of Ireland under the Youthful Offenders Act, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (MISCELLANEOUS SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 578 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 1285 to 2853 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENTS.

Return ordered, "of the number of Assessments to the Income Tax for the year ending the 5th day of April, 1901, (in the same classes and in the same amounts as stated in, and in continuation of, Parliamentary Paper, No. 317, of session 1901)."—(Mr. Bartley.)

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Copy ordered, "of Statement of Particulars of Loans of which the balances outstanding are proposed to be remitted or written off (in whole or in part) from the assets of the Local Loans Fund."—(Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

MEXBOROUGH AND SWINTON TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAYS (STOCK, ETC.).

Return ordered, "showing the holding of Debenture, Preference, and Ordinary Stock of Railways of the United Kingdom, and Shareholders, in the following form:—

Name of Company.	Total number of holders.	Number of Debenture holders.	Number of Preference and Guaranteed holders.	Number of Ordinary Stock holders.	Average holding of—				Capital.
					1.	2.	3.	4.	

(in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 219, of session 1886)."—(Mr. Claude Hay.)

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL [LORDS].

Lords consequential Amendment to the Bill to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Cromarty Firth—Fortification of the Sutors.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, in view of the fact that several vessels of His Majesty's fleet visited Cromarty Firth last summer, will he consider the expediency of calling on the Admiral in command for a Report as to the desirability of fortifying the two headlands known as the Sutors at the entrance to the Firth.

(Answer.) It is not considered necessary for steps to be taken by the Admiralty to obtain a special Report as regards the desirability of fortifying the two headlands referred to by the hon. Member.—(Admiralty.)

Deer Forest Return, 1899.

Mr. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the deer forest of Amat, Ross-shire, which is stated in the amended Deer Forest Return, 1899, to contain 950 acres, contains 3,500 acres, will he have some inquiry made on the subject.

(Answer.) I have nothing to add to the answer given to the hon. Member on Thursday last.†—(Scottish Office.)

Ordnance Survey—Coast Erosion in Yorkshire—Humber Navigation.

Sir. JOHN LENG (Dundee): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Ordnance Survey Department is in possession of maps showing the extent of the coast

† See preceding volume, p. 1376.

of the East Riding of Yorkshire in or prior to the reign of Henry VIII.; whether there is any record of the acreage of land and the number of townships which during the last century have fallen into the sea; whether, seeing that the erosion of the coast near Spurn Head has compelled the removal of the Spurn Lighthouse, the Humber Conservancy has taken or proposes to take any measures for arresting the changes affecting the navigation of the mouth of the Humber.

(*Answer.*) I am informed by the Ordnance Survey Department that the answers to the first and second paragraphs of the hon. Member's Question are in the negative. I am also informed that the Spurn Lighthouse was removed in consequence of defects in the old structure and not in consequence of the erosion of the coast. The Board of Trade, with the assistance of their technical advisers, carefully watch the position of matters at Spurn Point in order that any possible steps may be taken to guard against the inroads of the sea. I may mention that one of the professional officers of the Department had already arranged to visit Kilnsea, at the upper end of Spurn Point, during the coming week.—(*Board of Trade.*)

**Preservatives Committee's Report—
Action of Eastbourne Sanitary Authority.**

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a circular, dated 10th June, which has been issued by the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Eastbourne, setting forth the recommendations of the Preservatives Committee, and expressing the intention of that authority to act upon them; whether, seeing the division of opinion that exists as to the practicability of the adoption of those recommendations, he can issue a circular to public authorities recommending them to await the decision of the Government before adopting them as a basis of procedure; whether he can inform the House when he proposes to deal with the subject.

(*Answer.*) I have seen a copy of the circular referred to in the Question. I am not at present in a position to make any statement as regards legislation on the subject of the Report of the Preservatives' Committee. I have no power to require the adoption of any particular course by local authorities with respect to the enforcement of the law as to food adulteration, and it does not appear that there would be any advantage in my issuing a circular as suggested.—(*Local Government Board.*)

Indian Railways Inquiry.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state by whom the inquiry, which was instituted some time back into the working of the railway systems in India and the overcrowding of Native passengers in third-class carriages, was made; and whether the Report will be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answer.*) The inquiry recently instituted into the working of railway systems in India is not yet complete. It is being conducted by Mr. Thomas Robertson, late General Manager of the Great Northern Railway of Ireland, and Chairman of the Irish Board of Works, who went out to India as a special commissioner in the autumn of 1901. I cannot say when his report will be received, nor can I give any undertaking at present with regard to its publication.—(*India Office.*)

Indian Railways—Locomotive Tenders.

SIR JOSEPH LAWRENCE (Monmouth Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether contracts have recently been let for the supply of locomotives and carriages required by the Bombay and Baroda and East India Railway Companies to a firm or firms in Hungary; and, if so, will he state the differences in the amounts of the tenders of the different firms, English and Foreign: and whether the terms and conditions in the specifications were uniform in all particulars.

(*Answer.*) The hon. Member is no doubt aware that the Indian Railway Boards in matters of this kind act as they think best for the interests of their

undertaking, without direct reference to the Secretary of State. I expect to receive information on the subject of these contracts before long, but at present I am unable to give the facts for which the hon. Member asks.—(*India Office.*)

Aden Defence Works—Charge on Indian Revenues.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state why the revenue of India has been charged with the whole cost of the barracks at Aden as well as the cost of the stores and ammunition, seeing that when the fortifications were initiated in 1882 it was decided that the expense should be divided equally between Great Britain and India, apart from which the Royal Commission on the Administration of the Expenditure of India recommended in their Report, dated 6th April, 1900, that the United Kingdom should bear one-half of the annual cost of the Aden garrison.

(*Answer.*) In consequence of alterations in the scheme for special defence works and armaments at Aden, a new arrangement for the division of the charges was made with the Imperial Government in 1889, under which a maximum was fixed for the liability of the Imperial Government, in respect of special defence works and for the liability of India in respect of armaments. The exemption of the Imperial Government from liability for the cost of barracks and stores was a part of this agreement. The recommendation of the Royal Commission refers, as the hon. Member correctly states, to the annual cost of the Aden garrison, not to the charges for special defence works.—(*India Office.*)

Shanghai — International Settlement Mixed Court—Action of French Representative.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the representative of the French Government at Shanghai, in his capacity of member of the Consular Body of the International Settlement has refused to send his assessor to the Mixed Court of that Settlement, although this procedure is

adopted by all his colleagues; whether, also, the French Government maintains that in the Mixed Court of the French Settlement, assessors of nationality other than French are not entitled to sit in cases against Chinese subjects resident in that Settlement in which their nation's interests are involved; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government will take immediate steps to preserve our Treaty rights in China, and the interests of British and Chinese subjects at Shanghai.

(*Answer*) It is the case that the French Consul General at Shanghai has expressed himself unable to send an assessor to the Mixed Court of the International Settlement, the French Government not having concurred in the Rules of the Mixed Court of the International Settlement. A Report is expected shortly from His Majesty's Minister at Peking on the whole question. Pending its receipt, I am unable to make a full statement. His Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of the question.—(*Foreign Office.*)

Constitution Hill—Scavenging.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether his attention has been called to the scavenging of Constitution Hill and to the condition of the road; and whether he will consider the desirability of the Office of Works contracting with the City of Westminster for the scavenging and repair of the roads in the parks which are within the boundaries of Westminster.

(*Answer.*) My attention has not been called specially to the scavenging of Constitution Hill, although the general condition of the road was mentioned to me a short time ago. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that the subject of the road is by no means lost sight of by me. The scavenging is carefully attended to. Having regard to all the circumstances of the parks, I do not see my way to adopt the suggestion in the last part of the Question.—(*Office of Works.*)

Local Taxation (Ireland) Account—Appropriation of Unexpended Balance.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to a resolution of the Armagh County Council, endorsing the action of the Kerry County Council, and urging that £50,000 of the unapportioned balance of £77,000 in the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account be distributed among the County Councils in Ireland; and whether he proposes to give effect to this resolution.

(Answer.) I have not seen the resolution. But on the general question of the disposal of the unexpended balance of moneys lying to the credit of the Local Taxation Account under Section 58 of the Local Government Act, 1898, I would direct attention to the provisions of Sub-section (5) of that section—(*Irish Office.*)

New Kilmainham Urban Council Audit.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the final audit of the accounts of the late Urban Council of New Kilmainham was made on the 13th February, 1901, when the solicitor to the Council was represented by counsel; that his bills there presented for opposing the Dublin Boundaries Bill amounted to £2,292; and that the Bills contained disbursements which had not been certified for by the taxing officer; will he say whether any certificates were produced to the auditor; and, if so, for what amount; and, seeing that the solicitor in his bills admitted receiving £1,560 from the Urban Council, and produced a judgment of the High Court for £1,689, with £8 10s. costs obtained before the Council saw the writ or bills of costs, though his taxed costs only amounted to £1,711 10s. 8d., and that the amount claimed by the solicitor was allowed by the auditor, amounting to £4,982, of which £1,560 was discharged by Kilmainham, leaving a liability of £3,432 to be discharged by the Corporation of Dublin, can he say whether this liability, or any portion thereof, has been discharged by the Corporation, and whether he proposes to take action in the matter.

(Answer.) The solicitor to the Council attended the audit, but the auditor cannot say if counsel was also there to represent him. Two bills of costs, amounting respectively to £1,737 15s. 6d. and £1,501 11s. 11d., were submitted to the auditor, and the total amount of each of these bills was certified by the taxing master of the House of Commons. The solicitor received two payments of £900 and £550 on account; and a judgment of the High Court for the balance, viz., £1,689 7s. 5d. with £8 9s. 10d. costs was produced at the audit. It appears on the face of this judgment that the Council was served with the writ of summons, and that notice of the issuing of the said writ was published in the *Dublin Gazette* and in the local press. The taxed costs of the solicitor amounted to £3,239 7s. 5d., asset out above, of which £1,550 was discharged by the Urban District Council leaving a liability of £1,689 7s. 5d., which has since been discharged by the Corporation of Dublin. It does not appear that any action is called for on my part in the matter.—(*Irish Office.*)

Sandhurst College—Incendiary Fires and Disturbances—Indiscriminate Punishment of Cadets.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the inquiry into the matters arising out of the fires at Sandhurst can be held by some tribunal unconnected with the military authorities and not under the control or nomination of the Commander-in-Chief; if the twenty-nine youths will be allowed at such inquiry legal assistance at the expense of the War Office or of their own; and, if he will reinstate or transfer to some other position in the Army the three non-commissioned officers who have been removed from their positions by the action of the Commander-in-Chief.

(Answer.) I am not prepared to take the discipline of the Army or the educational establishments out of the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, in whom His Majesty's Government have entire confidence. My hon. friend will find the answer to his last two Questions in replies already given.—(*War Office.*)

Ceylon—Opium Shop Licences.

SIR JOSEPH PEASE (Durham, Barnard Castle): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the increased number of opium shops licensed by the Ceylon Government (69 in 1901 against 63 in 1896), and to the greatly increased importation of opium into Ceylon (23,754 lbs. in 1900 against 14,976 lbs. in 1896); and whether he will suggest to the Government of Ceylon the desirability of diminishing the facilities for the spread of the opium habit amongst the Sinhalese.

(Answer.) I have consulted the Governor, who is now in this country, on the subject of the hon. Member's Question. Sir West Ridgeway informs me that his attention is constantly being given to the question of the consumption of opium in Ceylon, but that, taking into consideration the growth of population, he is inclined to think that the increase in consumption has not been material. The matter will be carefully watched.—*(Colonial Office.)*

(2.15.) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.**South African War—Government Communications with Mr. Kruger.**

Mr. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, during the war in South Africa, the Prime Minister received any cables from Mr. Kruger which have not yet been laid upon the Table of the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester E.): The answer to this question is in the negative.

Mr. MARKHAM: Does that answer refer to the late as well as the present Prime Minister?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly.

Siege of Ladysmith—Sir George White's Despatches.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the statement laid by Sir George White before the War Office, detailing the history of the siege of Ladysmith and his observations thereon, will now be

published; and on what public ground, having regard to the fact that peace has been concluded, has the publication of this document been suppressed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Sir George White's despatches on the siege of Ladysmith were presented to Parliament last year.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: But I want another Paper, the one he laid before the War Office with full details and comments.

Mr. BRODRICK: I do not know of any such Paper.

Sir George White and Sir Redvers Buller.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what action, if any, has been taken by the War Office with reference to a statement made by Sir George White, shortly after the termination of the siege of Ladysmith, and permitted by the military press censor to be telegraphed to this country, that efforts had been made by the War Office to supersede him, and that these efforts were prevented by the action of Sir Redvers Buller.

Mr. BRODRICK: I know nothing of such a statement, and no action has been or will be taken.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the statement was made by Sir George White to the hon. Member for Oldham?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

"Military Notes on the Dutch Republics in South Africa."

Mr. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea, District): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a book or document headed "Military Notes on the Dutch Republics in South Africa," compiled in Section B, Intelligence Division, War Office, Revised June 1899, was found on the person of a British officer at Dundee after the engagement at or near that town; and, seeing that extracts from that book or document have been published in a history on the recent war in South Africa, whether he will lay a copy of the whole book or document upon the Table of the House.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member is evidently unaware that copies of this work were placed in the library of the House on the 12th December, 1900.

Sandhurst College—Incendiary Fires and Disturbances—Indiscriminate Punishment of Cadets.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay upon the Table the Report of Sir Robert Grant upon the conduct of certain gentlemen cadets of the Royal Military College at the Camberley Fair.

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. I am not prepared to lay on the Table Papers connected with this subject while the conduct of these cadets is under the investigation of the Commander-in-Chief.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the nature of the inquiry the Commander-in-Chief intends to make into the case of the cadets rusticated from the Royal Military College; and whether the Commander-in-Chief will associate with himself in that inquiry the Judge Advocate General.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): Before this Question is answered, may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether these general and corporate punishments are not uncommon in the Army, and whether there is any other practical way of dealing with such offences?

MR. BRODRICK: My hon. and gallant friend, I am sure, reflects the general feeling that the Commander-in-Chief would not have resorted to this form of punishment unless he thought it absolutely necessary. The inquiry will be conducted personally by the Commander-in-Chief, and it is not proposed to associate the Judge Advocate General with him.

LORD HUGH CECIL: Is it contemplated to accept the assurance of any cadet on his honour that he is innocent, supposing there is no evidence against him?

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid I must inform my noble friend that it is impossible for the Commander-in-Chief,

who is charged with the discipline of the Army, to conduct an investigation and give a decision if I am beforehand to announce the regulations that will guide him.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Will the right hon. Gentleman tell us exactly what is going to be done?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is going beyond the Question on the Paper.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of Gentleman-cadet Corporal J. S. Oldham, who was rusticated from the Royal Military College on 3rd July; whether he is aware that this cadet was absent on sick leave in London on 11th June, when the disorder at Camberley Fair took place; and, in view of the character borne by this cadet, will he say what evidence there is to connect him with the outbreak of fire on 25th June.

MR. BRODRICK: This cadet was absent on the 11th June on sick leave. He was, however, present in "C" Company passage about the time the fire in No. 100 room took place, and he was, therefore, rusticated with the twenty-eight others. The Commander-in-Chief will consider his case with the others.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: Did the right hon. Gentleman not say that this cadet was implicated in the previous disorder?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir, I did not. I said there were a large number of cadets who were implicated in this disorder, but I did not say that all the twenty-nine were implicated.

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can say what will be the expense of holding a special examination in London at the end of this month for the twenty-nine cadets who have been rusticated from Sandhurst; whether the expenses of the cadets in travelling to and from London for that

purpose will be defrayed by the State; whether notice has yet been conveyed to the parents that their sons should hold themselves in readiness to be examined.

MR. BRODRICK: The expense of the examination will fall on Army Votes. The reply to the other two Questions is in the affirmative.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, at the investigation promised by the Commander-in-Chief in regard to the fire at Sandhurst, each of the twenty-nine cadets rusticated will appear separately before the Court, or whether all will be allowed to be present during the investigation; whether any cadet who pledges his honour that he was not in the passages leading into the room where the fire took place during the three-quarters of an hour before it was discovered, or that he does not know who was the author of the fire, will be relieved of his rustication; whether the three servants in the quarters of "C" Company on 25th June will be examined, and evidence taken as to the possibility of any person having been in the quarters of "C" Company during the three-quarters of an hour previous to the fire, and having left the building before the fire was discovered; whether the senior cadets were invited to investigate the origin of the fire of 25th June and of previous fires at Sandhurst; and, if not, whether they will be invited to make such investigation, and be granted facilities for doing so.

MR. BRODRICK: The Commander-in-Chief has undertaken to go personally into the case of these cadets. It is not proposed to hold a further inquiry by a Board. I cannot make a further statement on the matter till the Commander-in-Chief has made his investigations.

LORD HUGH CECIL: When will the Commander-in-Chief make an investigation?

MR. BRODRICK: He is carrying on the investigation, I think, today, and possibly on the following days.

LORD HUGH CECIL: And when may we expect to know the result?

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MR. BRODRICK: I am not in a position to say, but the result will be communicated to the House.

Volunteer Provisional Camps.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen-shire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state what arrangements, if any, have been made for the dates and places of provisional camps for Infantry Volunteers who have not and will not be able to attend their own camps this year; and whether due notice has been or will be promulgated as to the arrangements for such provisional camps.

MR. BRODRICK: As these provisional camps are intended for Volunteers who are unable to attend their own camps, it is evident that the arrangements would only be made late in the season. These arrangements rest with the general officers commanding districts.

Crown Foreshore near Cork Harbour.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state the extent of the Crown foreshore adjoining Cork Harbour which in November, 1899, was let to the War Department at a rental of 2s. 6d. per annum; and, seeing that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests state, at page 74 of their report dated 28th June, 1901, that no rent was paid, as in June, 1900, the War Department purchased the foreshore, will he state the amount of the purchase money.

MR. BRODRICK: The extent of foreshore amounts to sixteen perches, and the purchase money to £3.

Army Recruiting.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that the recruiting Returns for the quarters ending 31st March and 30th June show smaller numbers than those of previous years, especially with respect to the Infantry of the Line and the Militia, although the additional inducements have been recently offered to recruits; and whether he will say what steps, if any, he proposes to take to deal with this difficulty.

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MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir. Omitting 1900, which was quite an exceptional year, the Returns show an improvement on previous years as regards the Infantry of the Line; and as regards the militia an increase over the figures for 1900 as well. But I must warn the hon. Member against comparing the figures of recruiting after the close of the war with the number raised during moments of great popular enthusiasm.

Glasgow Electric Tram Fatalities.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state the number of fatal accidents which have occurred on the Glasgow Corporation electric tramway system since the installation of electric traction on the 1st May, 1901; and what life-guards and brakes are provided by the corporation under Articles 1 and 6, of sub-section A, of the Glasgow Corporation Tramways Act, 1899.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am informed by the General Manager of the Glasgow Corporation Tramways that, since 1st May, 1901, twenty-two accidents attended with fatal results have occurred on these lines. It is stated that the great majority of the cars are fitted with a lifeguard of an approved type, consisting of a feeler and a dropping scoop. Other guards in use are (1) a wire guard, (2) a V-shaped double share, and (3) an angled single share. Two brakes are in use on every car, viz., a mechanical brake and an electric brake, the latter operating by short-circuiting the motors.

MR. WEIR: Are these brakes in accordance with the Glasgow Corporation Tramways Act?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I have no reason to suppose that they are not.

Electricity in Mines.

MR. MARKHAM: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether His Majesty's Government have arrived at any decision with reference to the employment of electricity in mines and the means of avoiding the recent loss of life and injury resulting therefrom.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have decided to appoint a Departmental Committee to inquire into the subject; and the Committee is now in process of formation.

Queen's Cottage Grounds, Kew Gardens.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottingham, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether the public now have access to the Queen's cottage grounds in Kew Gardens; whether the gates have been unlocked; and whether the grounds have been thrown open again to the public, in accordance with the permission given by Her late Majesty.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (MR. AKERS DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): Yes, Sir. The answer is in the affirmative.

Extradition with the United States—Irish Crime.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if, under the provisions of the Extradition Treaty between Great Britain and Ireland and the United States, a person charged with cattle houghing, arson and perjury in Ireland, who has found refuge in the United States, can be brought to Ireland for trial there.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): Yes, sir. The Extradition Treaty between this country and the United States applies to some of these crimes.

MR. LEAMY: Is it the intention of the Irish Government to apply for the extradition of Sheridan?

MR. ATKINSON: I must have notice of the Question.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member must put that Question down.

Land Purchase in Ireland—Payment of Instalments.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if, with a view to the convenience of tenant purchasers in Ireland, the Land Commission will notify to them that, when

distant from branches of the Bank of Ireland, their purchase instalments may be paid into any other bank for transmission to the Bank of Ireland.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The local branches of all Irish banks, as well as of the Bank of Ireland, accept lodgment of the purchase instalments, and an intimation to this effect is set out on the face of the Receivable Orders, which are filled up by the tenant purchasers.

Technical Education in Ireland—The Equivalent Grant.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what steps the Government propose to take in the matter of the equivalent grant for technical instruction in Ireland, and when the arrears due to Ireland in relation to that grant will be paid.

MR. WYNDHAM: This matter is still engaging the consideration of Government. There are no arrears due to Ireland.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE was understood to ask if the result of the investigation would be communicated to the Irish Government before the end of the session.

MR. WYNDHAM: It does not depend on myself. It rests primarily with the Treasury, with whom I am in communication. I will communicate the result as soon as it is arrived at.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May we hope for an announcement before the end of the session?

MR. WYNDHAM: I hope so, but I cannot promise.

Ancient Laws of Ireland.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can give the names of the different libraries on the Continent to which reference is made in the recently issued Report of the Commissioners for the Publication of the Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland, as containing important Irish MSS.

MR. WYNDHAM: A communication on this subject has been addressed to the hon. Secretary of the Commissioners. When I hear from him, I will write to the hon. Member.

Lord De Freyne.

MR. LEAMY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether any communication has passed between him and Lord de Freyne, or between the Congested Districts Board and Lord de Freyne, with the view of ascertaining if Lord de Freyne is willing to sell his estate to the tenants, or to the Congested Districts Board.

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir.

MR. LEAMY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Lord de Freyne has publicly stated his willingness to sell, if the Government think it is in the public interest he should do so?

MR. WYNDHAM: Not that I am aware of. I saw some reference to it in a local paper, but I have no knowledge of it.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman, I presume, is not interested in the matter.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): May I—

***MR. SPEAKER**: Order, order! The Question on the Paper has been fully answered.

Ex-Sergeant Sheridan.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the names of the police constables connected with Sergeant Sheridan who received an indemnity at the secret investigation which preceded Sheridan's dismissal; how many of those constables are still in the force; and whether those who have retired received a pension or gratuity; and, if so, what amount.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Question contains a serious misrepresentation of the order of events. The investigation did

not precede Sheridan's discharge. He was discharged on February 9th, and the investigation, beginning in May, was continued in June and July. The names asked for are Sergeant Keegan, Constables Anderson and Reid. One (Anderson) remained on at the Depot. The others (Keegan and Reid) accepted the alternative of resigning. They received no pensions, but were assisted to make a fresh start in life by a compassionate grant of £200 and £50 respectively.

Wexford Saw Mills Fatality.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fatal accident at Messrs. R. & R. Allen's Steam Saw Mills, Wexford, by which a boy named John Cullen was killed, and to the fact that the occupier, Mr. Moody, was prosecuted by Mr. Bellhouse, His Majesty's inspector of factories, for failure to fence part of the machinery; and, seeing that the Bench dismissed the summons, will he say whether he has received any official report showing the reason for the dismissal of this case; and will he state whether he proposes to take any action in this case.

*MR. RITCHIE: I have received a report on this case, and find that the Bench refused to say more as to the grounds on which they dismissed the case than that their decision was based on a point of fact and not on a point of law. It would appear from this that they consider that such protection of the machinery as the evidence showed that there was constituted a sufficient fencing. In these circumstances no appeal lies, and there is no action which I can take on the case; but I may say that the inspector reports further that the fencing has, since the accident, been carried out in a proper manner.

MR. KNOX MACINTYRE—PERSONAL EXPLANATION AND APOLOGY.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I wish, with the permission of the House, to make a brief personal explanation. The other day † I asked the Chief Secretary

for Ireland a Question with reference to the employment, as an expert witness in handwriting in a criminal case, of an official assignee of the Court of Bankruptcy in Ireland named Mr. Macintyre; and in a supplementary Question I inquired whether the Solicitor General for Ireland had not described Mr. Macintyre as an impostor. Since then my attention has been called to the letter in the newspapers from the Solicitor General for Ireland, in which he says—"I deem it but just to Mr. Macintyre to state that neither upon that nor on any other occasion did I refer to him as an impostor as suggested by Mr. Redmond. It is quite true that in the defence of my client I endeavoured, by very severe criticism, to discount his evidence as an expert in handwriting, but I did not use that expression." Although I hold the strongest possible views with regard to the employment of an official of the Bankruptcy Court as an expert in handwriting in criminal prosecutions in Ireland, I desire to express my regret for having unwittingly been the means of circulating a statement which was unfounded in reference to this Gentleman. The Solicitor General did not use the word impostor, and I am sorry I suggested it.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Labour Bureaux (London) Bill; University of Wales (Graduates) Bill.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added to the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, the following Fifteen Members in respect of the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill:—Sir William Arrol, Mr. Craig, Mr. Cripps, Colonel Denny, Sir William Dunn, Mr. John Edward Gordon, Mr. Bonar Law, Sir John Leng, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Nicol, Mr. Thomas Shaw, Mr. Soames, Sir Walter Thorburn, Mr. Ure, and Mr. Wylie.

Report to lie upon the Table.

† See preceding volume, p. 696.

IMPRISONMENT OF A MEMBER.

Ordered, That Sir Herbert Maxwell be discharged, and that Mr. Cochrane be added to the Committee. — (*Sir William Walrand.*)

NEW BILLS.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

"To grant money for the purpose of certain Local Loans out of Local Loans Funds; and for other purposes relating to Local Loans," presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order 31; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 275.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, (1901) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the provisions for escape from fire in Factories and Workshops," presented by Mr. Tennant, under Standing Order 31; supported by Captain Norton and Mr. Hugh Law; to be read a second time upon Friday, and to be printed. [Bill 276.]

SUPPLY.

[SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JAMES W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £5,421,862 be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Board of Education, and of the various Establishments connected therewith, including sundry Grants in Aid."

(2.40.) DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he wished to ask the Vice-President a question with regard to an acute difficulty that had arisen as to the temporary Act, passed last year, known as the Cockerton Judgment Act. That

Act provided that the municipalities^a should give their sanction to the evening continuation school work of the School Boards, which had been declared illegal by the Cockerton judgment, down to 31st July of this year only; and, as the Education Bill would not be passed until the autumn session, the evening continuation schools would have to come to an end on that day unless some way out of the difficulty was found. The situation was a very critical one, and he wanted to know if it was not possible for the right hon. Gentleman to find some way out of the difficulty. The Vice President stated, in reply to a question by the hon. Member for North-West Ham on the subject, that the municipalities might rely upon the assurance of the Government that they would not be surcharged if they carried on the evening continuation schools after 31st July. That was a somewhat clumsy, and certainly not a legal, way of dealing with the difficulty, and, notwithstanding the assurance thus given, it was quite possible that many municipalities would be chary to undertake this expenditure of money without legal sanction. He suggested, as a way out of the difficulty, the extension of the operation of the Cockerton Act for another year. It would surely be quite possible, with the consent of hon. Members on both sides, to allow such a Bill to go through without discussion, and he was sure hon. Members were equally, with himself, anxious that the excellent educational work now being done should not be brought to a standstill.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) hoped the Vice-President of the Council would be able to give a favourable and explicit reply to the question of the hon. Member for North Camberwell. The municipalities wished to carry on the evening continuation schools, as the work seemed to them to be of great advantage. It was clear that the Education Bill debates would not be finished in time to enable this point to be dealt with in the measure, and if all parties, recognising the value of the work, would agree to the maintenance of the *status quo* there ought to be no difficulty in making the suggested

arrangement. Could the Bill not be included in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill? He was confident it was the general wish of the municipalities that they should be authorised to continue the work, the value of which was greatly appreciated.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley), whose voice was almost inaudible in the gallery, was understood to urge the necessity of preventing the work of the evening continuation schools being brought to a standstill. He thought that if an agreement could be come to it might also be possible in the same Bill to clear up some doubts which had arisen as to the transference of schools.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) called attention to the grievance of teachers with reference to the insecurity of their tenure. Teachers were liable to be dismissed without any cause whatever. They were subject to the caprice of managers. They were a very hard-working body of men, and they felt this grievance most acutely. No class of civil servants in the country were so badly treated or had so insecure a footing. Even Members of Parliament knew two years beforehand what their fate was likely to be. Seeing that the House was going to sit till Christmas over the Education Bill, he suggested to the Vice-President that he should formulate a Clause dealing with the matter to be brought before the House on the Education Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. and gallant Member is not entitled to discuss in Committee of Supply a matter which he admits requires legislation.

MAJOR RASCH: Then I hope the right hon. Gentleman will bring in a Bill.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member has only made his position worse.

MAJOR RASCH: Then may I say that I hope the right hon. Gentleman will give a categorical answer on this Question?

Sir Albert Rollit.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington) said he wished to associate himself with the appeal of the hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite. He had several times asked questions of the right hon. Gentleman on the subject, and received very favourable answers. It was clear they had his sympathy with their efforts to find for the teachers who were wrongfully dismissed some means of redress, but they had been told also by the right hon. Gentleman that the remedy was in their own hands. If that were so, could he not find a place for a Clause dealing with it in the Education Bill? Let him give his sympathy a practical turn and help them in carrying such a Clause.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) confessed that he could see no solution of the Cockerton difficulty except the introduction of a short Bill by the Government to continue the Act passed last year. There might be a Bill merely extending the period of the Act, or a Bill going a little further and giving power to authorities to sanction the extension of the work. He thought the latter would be the easier one to get through the House. He feared that if a mere Continuation Bill were introduced some Members would feel it their duty to enter a protest.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is entirely spoiling his case by discussing legislation.

MR. WHITLEY said this was a question closely connected with the administration of the Board of Education and surely they were entitled to discuss it on the Vote for the right hon. Gentleman's salary. A serious state of things was likely to arise in the country and he was pointing out to the right hon. Gentleman that hon. Members on his side would be far more ready to let a proposal go through without opposition if it included powers—

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is again discussing legislation, and that is not in order in Committee of Supply. We can only discuss matters of administration.

MR. WHITLEY said that under the circumstances he would merely press on the right hon. Gentleman the fact that there was danger of this evening school work being brought to a complete standstill for a second year. He was sure the House would gladly help the right hon. Gentleman in any efforts to remove the difficulty.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) asked when the proposals of the Prime Minister with regard to day training colleges would be put into operation. He did not suppose that in the first year a sum of more than £7,000 would be required, and the sooner they got the proposals into operation the better, because the university colleges might be making arrangements for the reception of students.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) asked the Vice President whether he could not see his way to meet the Cockerton difficulty administratively. He suggested that the Local Government Board might issue a circular to School Boards, undertaking not to surcharge them for a specified period with the cost of carrying on evening classes and other work now declared to be illegal.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University) said that after the ruling of the Chairman as to the discussion of legislative proposals he was in some difficulty with a reply to the hon. Member for North Camberwell, but perhaps he might be allowed to say that the difficulty in connection with the Cockerton Act had been present to the Board of Education for many months past, and they were quite alive to it. It was quite evident that the matter could not be put right administratively, as the Board had no power to enable people to spend money which they could not spend legally; and with regard to the suggestion that his right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board should issue a circular inviting the School Boards to break the law, and assuring them that they would not be surcharged, he should think it was highly improbable

that it would be carried out. He was afraid that this was a matter which could only be cured by legislation; and he would merely say that the suggestion of the hon. Member for Camberwell seemed to him an eminently practical one, and if it could be carried out it would be effective for the purpose. But it was evident that some hon. Members were extremely anxious to introduce Amendments into the law, and if fresh Amendments were to be introduced, it was quite impossible to pass a Bill at this period of the Session. All that the Government could do had been done. A question was put to him by his hon. friend the Member for North-West Ham, and he not only answered the question, but, on behalf of the Government—they were not his own words, but words the Government desired him to use—he gave the assurance to the School Boards which the hon. Member for North Camberwell had read. Further than that he did not see how the Government could possibly go. He was certainly not authorised to say anything more. That was all the Government could do without legislation. They could only give that assurance. Not only was that assurance given by him to the House, but a circular was addressed to every School Board carrying on evening schools directing their attention to it. He could only say that the Government were quite alive to the difficulty, and they recognised the suggestion of the hon. Member for North Camberwell as an eminently practical one which they would be glad to carry out. Everything that could be done by the Government should be done. With regard to the question of the hon. Member for Carnarvon Boroughs as to the Prime Minister's proposals with reference to day training colleges, they would be placed in the form of a minute before the House of Commons as soon as the Education Bill was disposed of by the House. As to the other point that had been raised, he could only repeat that the subject of teachers' tenure was germane to the Bill before the House, and would evidently be raised in the course of the debates on that Bill. He quite admitted that it was desirable that some measure should be resorted to by Parliament to prevent teachers being dismissed, without cause, in a summary manner.

(3.0.) MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said he thought they were in a great difficulty at the present time; and he should like to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it would not be possible to meet it, by altering the conditions of the higher elementary schools, which were affected by the Cockerton judgment. Those schools had not been successful, owing to the difficult conditions under which they were placed; and the reason he was pressing the point now was that he saw the difficulty they would be landed in in endeavouring to pass from elementary to secondary work in the future. Some better method of co-ordination than that which now existed would be required. He wished to ask whether some modification was not possible without legislation which would make the higher elementary schools more acceptable generally. An assurance to that effect would be a great help in carrying out the work of secondary education in the country.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said no doubt there had been irregularities in the debate; but he trusted he should not fall into any himself. The Vice-President referred to the First Lord of the Treasury as the Prime Minister, an office entirely unknown to the British Constitution. The First Lord of the Treasury was engaged in forming a Ministry; he trusted the Vice-President would form part of it. If not, the right hon. Gentleman would probably be unable to introduce the Bill he had referred to. He wished to call attention to a matter strictly within this Estimate. The Vote amounted to very nearly £10,000,000, and consisted largely of grants to various schools based on registration. The Comptroller and Auditor General had, however, reported that the records of the registration were incorrect; and as the matter affected no less than £8,500,000 out of £10,000,000, he would read an extract from the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General—

"A test examination by officers of my Department having brought to light numerous instances of incorrect registration and of consequent overpayment, I enquired whether the Board would itself institute a complete audit of the Grants for the year."

The point of the Report was as follows—

"In reply to a communication from my Department calling attention to the faulty certificate, it is stated that 'The Board have usually relied on the particulars and certificates given by the Managers and teachers on Form 65 as a prevention of such duplication of payment as has here occurred.' While this statement has reference merely to the certificates on Form 65, it offers a convenient opportunity for calling attention to the fact that the large Grants payable not only under this Sub-head but also under Sub-heads C2, C4, C6 and C7, are based upon figures certified by the Managers and that therefore the trustworthiness of such certificates becomes a question of much importance."

He wished to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that Sub-heads C2, C4, C6, and C7 amounted altogether to £8,493,251, every halfpenny of which was brought into doubt by the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General. Every item depended on the certificates of the registration of attendance furnished by the managers; and as doubt had been cast on them, it behoved the Committee to ask for some assurance that these certificates would in future be really accurate and would represent the facts. In one item of £200,000 an error of about £6,000 had been discovered, of which amount £4,200 was actually admitted. It was absolutely important, nay, essential, that the figures on which the grants were based should be accurate. When an error, such as he had mentioned, had been discovered, doubt was cast on the entire Vote; and in view of the enormous sums now granted for educational purposes and the greater demands of the future, it behoved the Committee to ask why the Education Department had not, long since, taken steps to ascertain the correctness of the figures on which it based its grants. He did not know what answer his right hon. friend would make; but if it were not satisfactory as regarded the past, he hoped his right hon. friend would be able to give the Committee an assurance as to the future; and that there would be a careful audit of selected items, in order that the Committee might know that the grants were not inaccurate or falsified—of course he did not mean falsified purposely.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said that the hon. Gentleman opposite was

making a mountain out of a mole hill, when he suggested that the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General cast doubt on every item in the Vote. As regarded science and art classes, and schools, the irregularities occurred in precisely the class of school which, owing to the administration of the right hon. Gentleman, could not be carried on by a School Board. In the right hon. Gentleman's process of running amuck at School Boards in his administration, he had forbidden the School Boards to become Committees for science and art schools and classes, although any *congeries* of private persons could constitute themselves a science and art Committee. If there was careless supervision the Committee could not wonder at irregularities occurring. With regard to registration, he would point out that there were some 40,000,000 of entries every week as to the attendance and non-attendance of scholars; and the hon. Gentleman would see that it would be perfectly impossible for the Board of Education to audit such a number of entries. Ordinarily the managers of the schools were responsible for the accuracy of the entries—the large School Boards employed officers for that purpose; the inspectors and sub-inspectors of schools were also responsible, and if any doubt arose the Board of Education had the power to order an audit.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES asked if the Board of Education had an expert to conduct such an audit.

*MR. YOXALL said that the Board had power to appoint Inspectors of Returns, but it had not been frequently exercised. Having in view the immense number of registrations, a complete audit would be out of the question; and, as far as he knew, the existing safeguards were quite satisfactory. Since the House sat a very strong case had been made out for some check upon the managers of schools. There was the instance of a school mistress dismissed by a manager without good cause within a few months of the time when she could have claimed her superannuation allowance, at the age of sixty-four, when she was not likely to obtain another engagement, a mistress whose work had been commented upon by the inspector in a creditable manner. The

result was that she was deprived of her employment and of any chance of the retiring allowance for that period to which she would have been entitled. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to amplify the statement he had already made today with regard to this matter. They might legislate for education and produce excellent schools, but if they had in those school teachers suffering from a sense of great injustice; if they were under the continual apprehension of some capricious action being taken against them which would deprive them of their means of livelihood, the country would not get from those teachers their best work, and education must suffer. It was not a question of the teachers alone. It was also a question of efficiency, and applied alike to the elementary and secondary schools. There was a general consensus of opinion among all teachers upon this point, it being equally strong among the secondary school teachers as among the elementary school teachers, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to say something which would allay the fears of all these teachers.

SIR JOHN GORST hoped that the Committee would agree to take the Vote without prolonged discussion, having regard to the amount of Parliamentary time occupied with educational matters. In reference to what had been said by the hon. Member for King's Lynn, the difficulty of obtaining correct returns of attendance was ever present with the Board in its dealings with 20,000 schools. Rules, regulations, inspections, and all kinds of measures had been taken to secure as much accuracy as possible. This matter was under the most serious attention of the Department. A report from the Auditor General always demanded such serious attention and consideration for improvement in the system. The new Bill would give an opportunity for this. Returns would be less numerous, and, vouched for by municipal and county authorities, would be more reliable than those furnished by irresponsible, and often careless, school managers. He therefore hoped that a better system for ascertaining attendance, on which

the finance of the Department depended, would be carried out. He had often spoken on the subject of teachers' tenure of office, and, no doubt, would have to make many more speeches on that subject during the passage of the Bill now before the House. He really did not think he would be justified in inflicting another oration on the Committee, his opinions being well known and having been frequently expressed.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) hoped the Department would take the greatest care in drawing up the new minute in reference to the training of teachers, a subject which had received new importance from the regulation in regard to registration. He hoped the Department would pursue a liberal policy, and not confine grants to hostels intended entirely for teachers. A case was brought to his attention recently of a class of young pupil teachers, who were being sent to the Oxford and Cambridge settlements, in the East End of London, a system which had produced excellent results. That was a movement which was now going on which might possibly be encouraged by the Education Department. From the point of view of general culture, it would be well to bring teachers into contact with other young men receiving a wider professional training. He congratulated the Vice-President on the better organisation of science and art instruction in higher schools.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) expressed his desire to associate himself with what had been said as to the form of the new Minute dealing with the grants to be made to residential training colleges under the new Education Bill. He also wanted to emphasise in one word the necessity of giving more attention to securing reasonable tenure of office to the teachers of elementary schools. Having been brought into very close contact with the teachers throughout the county which he represented, he found there was practical unanimity amongst them in this matter. On this point all were agreed, and it was not often with regard to educational matters that unanimity could be found. The supreme consideration was so to

arrange matters as to draw into the teaching profession the men best adapted for the work. So long as the sense of insecurity prevailed among this class of public servants, the best work would not be obtained, and the educational interests of the country would suffer. Personally, he regarded the speech of the Vice-President as full of sympathy on the particular question under discussion, and if only sufficient pressure were brought to bear on the right hon. Gentleman and the Government, he believed that at no distant date some satisfactory arrangement would be arrived at. He hoped that before the Vote came up for discussion next year steps would be taken to remedy this evil, so that the teaching profession of the country would be able to go forward with their great public task without any of that fear which now arose from their insecure position.

MR. BRIGG was understood to express his agreement with the remarks of the hon. Member for East Somersetshire. A suggestion had been made as to the possibility of training colleges for teachers being so far arranged that they might afford the education required for secondary purposes in almost every district. As pupil teacher centres ought to be within reasonable distance of the centres where they were likely to find students, they would consequently be within reasonable distance of those who desired secondary education. He would suggest to the Vice President that under the arrangements which were to be made for the purpose of training teachers this point should not be lost sight of. He thought that the training of teachers and the provision of facilities for secondary education might very well go together.

(3.35.) MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) desired to emphasise the point raised by the hon. Member for East Somersetshire as to the curriculum of science and art schools. The curriculum imposed by South Kensington in the past had been too purely scientific. The number of hours devoted to science was about thirteen out of twenty-five, whereas in the *realschulen* in Germany, out of a week of twenty-nine or thirty hours the amount of time given to science was no

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greater. In the re-organisation of secondary education, what above all else was wanted, was to turn out men, not machines, and that object would not be secured unless due weight was given to humanistic as opposed to scientific teaching. He hoped that in this matter the Board of Education would be more liberal in its ideas than the Department at South Kensington had been.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) called attention to what he considered was the inadequate support given by the Government to evening continuation schools. In reply to representations from the Lancashire County Council by a Deputation of which he was a member, the Vice President last year promised to look into the matter, and, if necessary, to make increased provision. The fears then expressed as to the insufficiency of the grant under the altered Minute of July 3rd, 1901, had been borne out by the facts. In the case of certain evening continuation schools, the balance sheets of which he held, conducted in the rural districts, in connection with the Lonsdale Division of the county, it appeared that, although the grants paid by the Board were the highest that could be earned, £26 3s. 6d., they were 37 per cent. less than would have been received under the old scale which would have amounted to £40 12s. In country districts especially, there was great need to encourage local Committees to deal with this matter, but if there was to be a risk of pecuniary loss, the damage to the cause of education would be considerable. Everything possible should be done to develop this important section of educational work. Complaint was often made that the children from the elementary schools passed into the world, and lost the smattering of knowledge they had acquired, and were thereby rendered incapable of availing themselves of the opportunities for better employment which frequently came to them in later life. In consequence, the evening continuation school code had been developed to provide for the teaching of children of older growth and even of adults, and he thought the arrangements for developing that phase of the work should be as generous

as possible. The action of the Government in maintaining the severance of this work from the Department of elementary education was not to be commended. In large centres of population the day schoolmasters had frequently been willing to forego the opportunity of relaxation in the evenings in order to take charge of, and by their self-denying effort (which demanded recognition) support these schools, and so attract and keep in touch with the children who had previously come under their care. Such an arrangement had been found to be most advantageous, because of the personal knowledge which these masters had of the children who had passed through the day schools. The evening schools ought to be fostered, and the Committee should see to it that financial consideration did not tend to check the development of the work. In fairness to the Department it should be said that under the increased arrangements for the present year the loss on the grant would not be quite so large, but the amount that could be earned was only £30 10s. 9d. for the same work, and this was quite inadequate, and he hoped the Vice President would carefully consider the matter.

MR. WHITLEY desired to bring before the Committee two matters of economy in staffing. The first was one to which he called attention last year, viz., an item of £800 as salary to a senior examiner who did no examining. This gentleman also received a salary of £350 a year as Secretary to the Duke of Devonshire, and his whole time was taken up by his secretarial duties. The Votes ought to represent payments for services rendered, and the salaries should correspond to work done. This particular item did not carry out that principle, and therefore he should move to reduce the Vote by £800. The other case was that of a second examiner who drew £150 a year as Private Secretary to the Vice President himself. Did this gentleman do any examining?

SIR JOHN GORST: No, but both examiners do a very large amount of office work. Both of them had been employed, in the preparation of the Education Bill now before Parliament, very long hours indeed, and far beyond office hours. They do not do any examining at all. They do office work, correspondence, and

preparation of Returns. Why they were called examiners he did not know, because they did not examine.

MR. WHITLEY asked if he was to understand that those who were called examiners under secondary education also did no examining.

SIR JOHN GORST: Yes.

MR. WHITLEY: Then they paid these salaries as examiners because they did not examine. He desired that this matter should be made as plain as possible. He felt certain that last year the Vice President of the Council said that this gentleman devoted his whole time to his duties as private secretary to the Lord President, and that was why his salary ought to appear in one sum as a salary and not under the Education Vote. Last year the Vice President of the Council made a most amusing speech in defence of the great amount of work which these examiners had to do, and he thought he was justified in claiming that these salaries ought not to appear on the Education Vote at all. His second point was in regard to the architect employed by the Board of Education. This official received a salary of £850 a year, fees £100, £150 a year as architect to the Scotch Education Office, and £105 and fees under Item A, Class III., as architect to the reformatories and industrial schools. Was it a fact that this architect was allowed to engage in private practice as well?

SIR JOHN GORST: That is so.

MR. WHITLEY said he should also like to know if this architect was allowed to do private consultative work with regard to the plans which had to be approved by the Department afterwards.

SIR JOHN GORST: I believe that is so.

MR. WHITLEY thought that was a very unsatisfactory system. He thought the architect to the Education Department ought not to engage in private practice to the detriment of other architects. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to assure him that such a state of things would not be allowed to continue, and he begged to move the reduction of this item by £200.

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Motion made and Question proposed "That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £200."—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

SIR JOHN GORST said that these matters had been brought up for several years and had become hardy annuals. With regard to the private secretary to the Lord President his services were absolutely necessary, because it was impossible for the Minister for Education to know all the minute details of the Department, and he must keep an expert to advise him. The gentleman who had been referred to as the secretary to the Duke of Devonshire was his own private secretary at one time, and he proved so useful in that capacity that he had now been made a senior examiner at a salary of £650 a year and not £800. No one who knew the amount of work these two gentlemen did would make such a suggestion as had been made. With regard to one of them, he could assure the House that since the Education Bill first began to be talked about a year ago, this gentleman had done an amount of work far beyond what they would dream of exacting from any public servant. This gentleman had not only been most active in the preparation of the Bill and meeting the various objections which had been raised, but he had superintended the production of an enormous number of Returns and statistics, maps, diagrams, and various other things to assist the Department and also to supply the First Lord of the Treasury and the Cabinet with information which it was necessary they should have for this extremely complicated Bill. He hoped the hon. Member would not reward the great public services of these two Gentlemen by moving this reduction, for the services of one of them had been recognised by the King. With regard to the architect, he was in existence before he came to the Education Department. He admitted that he did not think the arrangements as regarded this architect were satisfactory, and when there was a vacancy he did not think his successor would be appointed on the same terms. With regard to his services in the Scotch Education Office as architect, he had nothing to do with that, and the services he rendered with reference to the

reformatories came under the control of the Home Office. He could assure the hon. Member that the architect was a gentleman of the highest honour, and he had taken care that no plan upon which he had acted privately should be passed by him, for anything in which he had been personally interested was handed over to the other officials. He admitted that the position was not satisfactory, and it would not be repeated in the case of a future holder of the office. He thought it would be a misfortune if any Vote in Committee of Supply were to interfere with their continuing an arrangement which had served the country in a very admirable manner.

(4.0.) MR. WHITLEY said he accepted the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to private secretaries, and he would not press that matter further. The reply with regard to the position of the architect was eminently unsatisfactory. There would be no reform whatever so long as they went on the doctrine because a thing is, therefore it shall be. He did not care how eminent a particular form was. It was a rotten system to allow one office to be responsible for something which had to be passed by an official of that same office. He did not for a moment suggest that this architect would think of passing plans which he himself had prepared, but the system which enabled him to adjudicate on plans which had been prepared by his clerks or assistants was one which should not be permitted to continue.

MR. BRIGG called attention to an item of £100 in the accounts as "fees for architect." There was no explanation whatever of that sum. As far as one could see it might as well have been £500 or £1,000.

MR. YOXALL asked the Vice-President of the Council what the Education Department proposed to do in regard to building rules in future. Until recently there was a schedule of rules in the day school code, but that had been abolished, and only a vague article was found in regard to new buildings.

SIR JOHN GORST said that new building rules were about to be issued. They were now undergoing revision with the view of making them very much more simple. The last time he inquired he was told that they would be ready in about a fortnight. That was a fortnight ago. He fully expected that they would have been issued by this time.

MR. YOXALL: There is no intention to relax the severity of the rules?

SIR JOHN GORST: They will be relaxed in this sense that they will be less particular and complicated. They will leave a great deal more to the discretion of the local authority in regard to the buildings.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said there was an amount of not unnatural anxiety in regard to this question. The rules in the past had been one of the reasons for the enormous improvement of school buildings in the country, and any relaxation in regard to vital particulars would be a serious thing. It would not be in order to discuss the Education Bill at present, but perhaps he would be allowed to say that there were to be certain powers given to the new authority under Section 9 in regard to the provision of new schools, and if the building rules were in any way relaxed the working of that Clause would be quite different from what it would be otherwise.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich) said he understood that men were entered in high position in the service of the Education Department without passing through a civil service examination. In that way serious injustice was done to the ordinary clerks, inasmuch as it prevented promotion. It was very unjust that these men should be put over their heads in this way. He understood that they passed in without any examination whatever. That was a matter which required to be cleared up. In the Public Accounts Committee he asked an official in regard to the architect. He was told that according to the architect's agreement with the Department he should not be allowed to adjudicate on any plans that he had himself prepared or in regard to which he had

given advice. He thought at the time that that was a satisfactory answer, but he understood now that if he did not personally do it some of his subordinates did it.

SIR JOHN GORST: Somebody has to adjudicate on the plans. I did not know there was an agreement, but I know what the practice is. The practice is that the architect does not adjudicate on any plan in regard to which he has been personally consulted.

MR. GODDARD said that seemed to be very unsatisfactory. If a man immediately under the control of the architect adjudicated on the plans he really thought there ought to be an alteration.

SIR JOHN GORST said the examiners in future would be appointed from the junior inspectors. That was the intention which was in the mind of the Government at present. There was an enormous variety of schools to inspect, and in making new appointments, those best suited for the particular class of schools would be chosen. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that though not appointed by competitive examination, they were men who had taken good degrees at the

universities or university colleges. They were men who in every way had shown their general competence. They must also have had considerable experience in teaching in schools of various kinds.

MR. BRIGG reminded the right hon. Gentleman that he had not answered the question about the fees of the architect.

SIR JOHN GORST gave an answer which was inaudible in the gallery.

MR. BRIGG: He gets £850 for doing the work, and then he gets £100 besides.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said it was no answer whatever to say that the architect was an honourable gentleman. He ought not to be put in such a position that his private interest and his public duty might conflict with each other. That was a broad principle for which they had been contending on the Opposition side of the House from time to time. There should not be the faintest suspicion attached to those engaged in the public service.

(4.13.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 123; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 291.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Byce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cramer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred

Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
Fenwick, Charles
Field, William
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McGovern, T.
McKillop, W. (Sligo, North)
McLaren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Moss, Samuel
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O. Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Schwann, Charles E.

Mr. Goddard.

Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)

Thomas, J.A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, Luke (York, E.R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.)

Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (Huddersfield)
 Young, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Whitley and Mr.
 Soares.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A.J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bhowanaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blandell, Colonel Henry
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Bull, William James
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Eberton, Hon. A. de Tatton
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Forster, Henry William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hon. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Linc.)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Go-chen, Hon. George Joachim

Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Green, Walford D. (Wendlesbury)
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midx.)
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Heath, James (Staffords. N.W.)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brixton)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Horner, Frederick William
 Houl, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnston, Haywood (Sussex)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maiver, David (Liverpool)
 Maconochie, A. W.
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Milvain, Thomas
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Myers, William Henry
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasche, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, H. C. (Northampton, Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritten, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valencia, Viscount
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

2. £78,706, to complete the sum for Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales.

CLASS V.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £277,570, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the expenses in connection with His Majesty's Embassies, Missions, and Consular Establishments Abroad, and other Expenditure chargeable to the Consular Vote."

(4.28.) SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that on a former occasion on the Diplomatic and Consular Vote he had tried to resume the discussion interrupted on the Foreign Office Vote, and draw attention to the question of the relation which ought to be maintained between the diplomatic and consular service on the one hand, and the commerce of the country on the other. He thought that a comparison between the condition of affairs in this and other countries led one to the conclusion that both in diplomacy and consular action the promotion of commerce took a much more direct and important part in foreign than in our own service. At the same time, he was glad to acknowledge that he had frequently heard diplomatists state that one of the duties of the representatives of this country was to, have regard to its commerce, and to promote good commercial relations between the country which they represented and the countries to which they were accredited. He knew that in many instances our representatives had done their best to promote British commercial progress. From that point of view the consular service was perhaps of even more importance than the diplomatic service; and he could not help saying that in that branch there was a greater disparity between our own and other countries. That might be due to the fact that in foreign countries the consular service was more organised commercially, and was certainly dealt with on a footing which was not general in our own country. For instance, in the case of France, he found that not

only was there a course of education in the higher commercial schools and colleges particularly adapted to the training of consuls, but there was a gradation in the consular ranks, which led to the higher branches of the service. Young men commenced as cadets and ultimately, after a severe course of training, took a high position in the consular service. Therefore, it was eminently desirable that our consuls, though they had other duties to perform—and that, after all, reduced itself to a question of salary—ought to be the out-posts of British commerce, and the Intelligence Department available for the help of our commercial people. Now, the system of the appointment to the consular service was very different in this country from that which obtained in any other country. It was mainly a system of patronage, which was difficult to defend. Of course it was impossible to imagine that that system could be abused by such statesmen as Lord Salisbury or Lord Rosebery; but the expression made use of on the occasion of the last debate by the noble lord the Under Secretary with reference to the reward of men who had served the country in distant parts of the world showed that it was a system which was advisedly not only adhered to, but put in practice in certain cases. The noble Lord said they had to provide for those who had done service to the State in such undeveloped countries as Africa. It was perfectly true that such persons were entitled to recognition, but he did not think the reward of gentlemen of that class was, as a rule, properly carried out when they were put into consular posts. It must end in a large measure in putting square men in round holes, and although their service was ripe for reward he did not think the reward should take the form of positions for which these gentlemen were not trained. He admitted that there had been considerable improvement in our diplomatic consular service, and that the increase in the number of commercial attachés was beneficial, although there was room for more, and there were one or two places where at present there were no attachés, but where their presence was desirable. Though that was so, he believed the attachés who had been appointed had

rendered real service. Consular agents also had recently been appointed, and their visits here to a number of Chambers of Commerce to confer with those directly interested in commerce was a desirable step, and he desired to acknowledge it. He thought there was some need for a larger representation of our commerce in the colonies, and appointments made in that direction in some of the larger colonies would be most desirable. Recognition was also due to the Foreign Office for the improvements made in the regulations relating to consular duties; nevertheless, he thought there was room now for greater expansion in that direction. Having regard to the steps which had been taken by foreign countries to make their consular service as useful as possible to the commerce of their countries, we certainly ought, at all events, to watch, if we were not able to follow in their footsteps, although we could follow to a considerable extent. The action of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office in securing recognition for colonial demands was a great step in the right direction. Having made those acknowledgments, there were one or two points on which he desired to make some observations of a somewhat different character. Complaint had been made that consuls were not sufficiently familiar as a rule with the language of the countries in which they represented us. He was informed that in Russia there were not more than six who were able to converse in the language of that country. In other years it was not so important to know Russian, a knowledge of French and German being quite sufficient for consuls in that country, but owing to the development of the interior it had become absolutely necessary to be able to converse in the Russian language. Exception had also been taken to the large number of foreigners who represented this country in consular offices. That was a matter it was not, perhaps, always possible to avoid; there were exceptional cases in which persons of influence among men of business abroad might make the best representatives. But as a general rule our own countrymen were the best representatives of our own country. There were a considerable number of foreigners representing us in Switzerland, for instance.

Of course it might be a question of salary, and after looking through the list some of the salaries did appear to him to be most inadequate. Then with regard to the consular reports. Some were most excellent, as witness the report of the Consul at Stettin, which was only a sample of many others which might be cited, but one had only to read some of the more meagre to see how inadequate they were. If comparison were made between the speed of publication of our consular reports and those of other countries, especially the United States, the comparison would not be to our advantage, and in these days, when time was money and despatch meant business, publication almost contemporaneous with the course of events was necessary to give the reports any value at all. One point in which we were excelled by the United States was in the publication of special reports in connection with sudden developments of new or special branches of industry. On such occasions it was impossible to wait for the annual report, and it was then important that we should have special reports; and in comparison with those of the United States, the special reports of this country were very few. He had given, he thought, reasonable and proper praise for the work which had been effected, but on the other hand he would suggest that there was still room for improvement, and he hoped the noble Lord would reconsider the propriety of placing gentlemen who had done admirable service in savage and undeveloped countries in the position of consular agents, where they had to deal with cute business men. He hoped some other mode would be adopted of rewarding them. The reforms to be carried out by the Foreign Office might not be such as he had ventured to suggest in detail, but reform was certainly required, and he thought that nothing would be effected until there was a great reorganisation in the Departments dealing with the consular work. He heard demands made for a Minister of Commerce. He himself was content to accept the President of the Board of Trade as the Minister of Commerce; but trade matters, he thought, ought to be dealt with by one Minister, who should be responsible to Parliament.

At present, there seemed to be a great want of organisation in dealing with these matters; the Board of Trade represented trade interests in general; the Foreign Office managed foreign affairs and the consular service; and in addition there was the representation of the Colonies, and India, and the like. Let him take an illustration. He was a member of the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade, and the work of that Department had been done as well as the resources would permit. Steps had been taken to ascertain the state of trade in Persia, Siberia, and other places, but to show the bodies with which they had to deal it was only necessary to look at the constitution of that Department. It was a Department of the Board of Trade, and in it there were representatives of the Foreign Office, commercial side; of the India Office, of the Board of Trade itself, of the Colonial Office, and others. They did excellent work, but he felt that that organisation was not a proper one when there were so many different Departments to consult and take into account. He thought the responsibility and management of commercial matters should be placed in the hands of one Department, and the head of that Department should be the Minister of Commerce in this country. He wished to say one word on the subject introduced by his right hon. friend in the most able speech which he had delivered in relation to the Diplomatic Vote. When it was sought to discuss commercial matters on that Vote, the Chairman ruled that it was out of order to do so, but he thought he was in order in saying that he could express the fullest concurrence of the commercial community in what was then said, that the difficulties which arose between us and other countries should be disposed of before they became the source of acute difficulty to this country. He referred particularly to the desirability of finding an amicable solution of the Newfoundland difficulty with France. Public opinion in France was directed to the same end, and our interest pointed in the direction of establishing the best relations with France and Russia. Consular representation should be made as commercial as possible, and we should

be then placed in more close relations with those actually engaged in commerce. That consultation of those directly interested in the trade and commerce of the country would be useful to diplomacy was shown by the fact that the opinion of the Chambers of Commerce was adverse to the taking of Wei-Hai-Wei, and favourable as an alternative to the choice of Chusan or some position nearer to the Yang-tze than Wei-Hai-Wei. He impressed upon the Foreign Office the fact that they had in their care commercial duties of the highest character, and he hoped the matters to which he had drawn attention would receive the consideration of the noble Lord.

MR. BRIGG, speaking as a Member who took great interest in this matter, and who took care that consular reports were distributed amongst those most likely to read them, thought he might be permitted to say a few words upon this Vote. He was not in entire agreement with all his hon. friend had said, and he desired to point out the difficulty in which the Foreign Office was placed in collecting that information which was valuable to the manufacturers of this country. It was not so essential for the consular agents to send over the number of ships carrying merchandise as to send over a classification of the goods used. The method in which the information was supplied could, he thought, be improved. In the first place, any information with regard to railway and other charges on the Continent might be supplied in such a form that it could be most useful, and the amounts might be given in English money, and if in other matters the English equivalent for foreign weights and measures was given, the information would be much more useful and the Returns of much more value. This should be no trouble to our consular agents.

(4.54.) MR. GIBSON BOWLES sympathised with the references made to the Consular service, and thought there could be no doubt but that the Foreign Office had looked with disfavour on researches of a consular character. The consul abroad was originally senior British merchant in the place of his appointment. For years past he had been

Sir Albert Rollit.

something very different—a retired officer, who perhaps might be a most deserving person, but who was often not thoroughly competent to deal with commercial interests. An overhauling of the consular service was required, but he thought it must still remain under the Foreign Office. But the Foreign Office should realise that it was the Foreign Office of a commercial country. As to the consular reports themselves, the Committee could scarcely realise the incapacity shown by the Foreign Office in elementary matters of business. He complained that the consular reports often did not show clearly from whom they came and the year to which they referred. For example, a report in his hand purporting to deal with the trade of Lorenzo Marques for 1900 contained accounts for 1899, 1900, and 1901. It was the report of a consul-general—where, he was not told. The expression “this year’s census” occurred in the report, but what year was meant he did not know. It was painful to find the Foreign Office betraying such a want of knowledge of commercial affairs, and he hoped the Department would realise the importance of attaching to consular statements the date when written, and the writer’s name. As to ambassadors, the rules for their election appeared to be very vague, and the Committee had little opportunity of gathering any account of their demeanour, or of estimating the amount of success due to their personal influence and tact. Ambassadors had one advantage over Ministers, viz., that they were compulsorily retired at the age of seventy. He would commend that rule to the right hon. Gentleman who was now forming an Administration, because it might very well be applied to other Departments. If an ambassador was too old properly to discharge his duties at seventy, a Lord Chancellor was not too young to retire at seventy-six. On the general duties of ambassadors, he was by no means satisfied with the ambassadorial work of recent years. Its effect had been the alienation of Persia and Turkey; Persia had been thrown into the arms of Russia without any agreement having been come to, and there was the undoubted fact, referred to by the right hon. Baronet on a previous

occasion, of a considerable change in the attitude of Italy towards this country. He was sorry to say that he believed that change of attitude was entirely due to our Ambassador at Rome. Lord Currie had been pushed on with great assiduity in the diplomatic service, but the rapidity of his promotion was not warranted by his diplomatic achievements. Certainly in Constantinople Lord Currie managed to make himself extremely disagreeable to the Powers, and in consequence England lost advantages she might otherwise have gained, and things contrary to her interest, which might have been prevented, had been carried into effect. On the whole Lord Currie could not be considered to have been a decided success at Constantinople. He went to that post in 1894, in 1898 he was translated to Rome, where his career had not been attended with any greater success. He believed he was right in saying—but on this point the Under Secretary of State would correct him if he was wrong—that so disagreeable had been the demeanour of this Ambassador at the Court of Italy that positively a request had been addressed to the Foreign Office for his recall. If that was the case, and he was informed on excellent authority that it was so, a great responsibility rested upon the Foreign Office for keeping him there. But whether that were true or not, the mission of Lord Currie to Rome had not been the brilliant success that might have been expected from the rapid promotion of which he had been the subject, and he believed he was justified in saying that the change in the attitude of Italy was very largely due to the non-success of his diplomatic efforts. He was perfectly aware that there might have been great difficulties and extenuating circumstances, and to ensure an answer on this matter he moved to reduce the Vote by £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, “That a sum, not exceeding £276,570, be granted for the said Service.”—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

MR. YOXALL asked for information as to the present condition of matters relating to the British Consulate at

Odessa. A complaint had been made of the removal of the Consulate from the commercial part of the city to the vicinity of the tennis grounds. It was alleged by those who knew that too many of our consuls abroad neglected their proper duties for other considerations, and the removal of the Consulate from the commercial quarter of Odessa was merely typical of a general defect in the consular system. In this particular instance it caused a great deal of inconvenience, additional expense, and loss of time to British shipmasters. Upon making representations to the Foreign Office he received a letter promising something in the nature of redress, and he desired to know whether that promise had been carried out. He agreed to a large extent with the remarks of the hon. Member for King's Lynn on the question of the consular service generally. Great improvements were necessary, not only in regard to the number of consular officers, but also as to their location, authority and nationality. We employed nearly 1,000 consular servants who were not of British nationality at all, and these persons came into contact with official secrets, and with matters referring to British Imperial interests in what seemed to him to be a very loose and unsafe way. He did not suggest that it was impossible for a foreigner to be a faithful servant of the British Crown, but he did suggest that when British born subjects were scattered all over the world, it would be worth the while of the Foreign Office to take some pains to secure as consular agents in remote places British born persons, instead of appointing men of foreign extraction. The present state of affairs was very much the result of the desire of the Foreign Office to run the service on the cheapest possible basis. By the employment of unpaid consular agents the service worked out at a cost of about £19 per man per year, whereas in the Diplomatic Service the cost per man per year was something like £1,700. He thought it might be well to spend a little less than £1,700 per man on the Diplomatic Service, and a little more than £19 per man on the Consular Service, which was naturally more extensive, had representatives in many more places, and had to do with very important British interests—

Mr. Yocall.

particularly those relating to British trade. It was a mistake of organisation that the Consular Service should be under the Foreign Office at all. So long as British consuls were expected to deal with matters of trade, he thought that, wherever possible, men acquainted with commerce, and formerly engaged in trade, should be appointed. Since, however, they had also to do with diplomatic work, he thought they might, perhaps, criticise the way in which the Foreign Office had of recent years withdrawn some of the consular officers from quarters in which eyes and ears for this country were particularly necessary, as, for example, had been done in Asia Minor and Morocco. Whether the Committee considered the location of the consular agents, or their nationality, or the way in which, in order to save expense, unpaid agents were employed, and it was rendered impossible for the Foreign Office properly to check their work, at every point it would be found that the Consular Service required revision, amendment, and improvement, and he would be heartily glad to learn that something in that direction was being done. He was glad to learn that on two points, at any rate, improvement had been effected—viz. in the appointment of commercial agents at Zurich, and in the abandonment of fees to British subjects who sought trade advice.

(5.15.) MR. MOON (St. Pancras, N.) agreed with what had been said as to the importance of our consuls knowing the language of the country to which they were appointed. The reputation gained by Sir William White in the early days of his career was largely due to his mastery of the vernaculars in different parts of the south-east of Europe, because, from a diplomatic point of view, he obtained a great deal of useful information. But the duties of the consuls who had been spoken of were of a very different character. With regard to Odessa he noticed that the salary was a large one, the amount being £900 a year, with an allowance of £450 for office expenses, and there was also a vice-consul at £300. To carry out what the hon. Member for South Islington had suggested, would require a special Russian Consular Service, on the footing of the China, Japan, and Siam services. He had several times tried to master the Russian language, and though he had succeeded in many other languages

he had not succeeded with Russian. He was sure that the time required to acquire the Russian language would necessitate special training. There were both redundancies and deficiencies in the Foreign Office Vote. The absence of a British representative at Bolivia had already been referred to. If we needed a representative there in the '40's, surely there was more need for one now than sixty years ago, with all our great increase in trade. He was in the capital of Bolivia last August, and he knew that this country had a very considerable trade there in minerals and rubber. The rubber grown there was said to be quite equal to that grown near the mouth of the Amazon. He noticed that nearly £2,000 was spent at Munich, and he did not think it would be too much to spend £500 or £600 at Bolivia, where there were already about 200 Englishmen. In the case of a firm in Bolivia composed of an Englishman and a German, their dispute had to be settled by the German representatives, because there was no British Consul there. That state of things involved a loss of prestige to Britishers there. Before leaving South America, he wished to impress upon his noble friend the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the necessity of watching very carefully the way in which the authorities of the Argentine Republic followed up what seemed to be an exceedingly brutal murder which occurred, not in a very remote part of the Argentine, but in a fairly central region. A young Englishman was charged upon some frivolous pretext, and was wounded with a pistol by a police officer, and the wound proved to be a mortal one. The Argentine Republic was a set of States in which the Federal principle was highly developed, and the provincial governments had a very free hand and did not always treat matters in a European manner. He wished to have the views of His Majesty's Government pressed upon the central government. The hon. Member for King's Lynn seemed to have been very unfortunate in regard to these consular reports, for a great many of them appeared to him to be exceedingly useful. Those reports went to show that English merchants did not get foreign markets because they did not publish their catalogues in the vernacular, and would not use the weights and

measures and prices of foreign countries. Again, no steps were taken to produce the article required, and our merchants continued to send out the same article time after time. Whether anybody except theoretical people read these reports he did not know, but as soon as a merchant heard of anything good, he did not wait for the report of the Foreign Office. With regards to this country being represented abroad by foreigners, Lord Curzon, when he represented the Foreign Office in this House, said that that was practically the universal custom. He thought the hardship alleged would have to be much more strongly made out before any such drastic steps as those suggested could be taken.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said that he understood that sometimes a subordinate member of the consular staff was a foreigner, but he thought the idea of the Foreign Office was, that so far as they could do it, they got men of British nationality in the consular service. There was a case in Berlin some time ago, where this country appointed the banker of Prince Bismarck, and it struck him at that time that a man more unfit to represent British interests in Germany could not be found than Prince Bismarck's banker. His hon. friend said they had no consuls in Morocco and Asia Minor. Our consuls there used to be military consuls, not intended to look after commercial interests, but to watch and guard us against Russian aggression. There was no good object served by having a commercial consul in places where they had no trade, or only a very small amount, as was the case with Morocco and Asia Minor. He was very glad that his hon. friend opposite had raised this question, because it was a most important one. He was what was called a little Englishman. He was opposed to the wild and reckless militarism which, at present, was in favour with hon. Gentlemen opposite, and with some on this side of the House. He was a strong advocate of large expenditure being undertaken by the Government for the spreading and looking after of our commerce, but he did not think, considering what we spent on our Army and Navy, we spent a sufficient amount on our consular service. The

primary mistake in connection with the consular service, was that it was not made a profession. What happened was that Ministers — he was not speaking particularly of Ministers at present on the Treasury Bench—who did not know what to do with a tenth cousin, or hanger-on, tried to get him appointed as a consul. That person was a decent, respectable man; he did not offend or lower the dignity of the British Empire, but, unfortunately, he knew nothing about commerce. The hon. Member had come across consuls who were charming men; he knew nothing personally against them, but certainly no country would think of having these men as commercial agents. They could not write reports, but they went to some merchant, perhaps their tailor or somebody, and asked him to write a report. They signed it, and sent it home. These reports were, in many cases, not worth the paper they were written on. Some of the reports were very good, but many of them were very poor. These men had no commercial education. The Foreign Office must recognise that this must be made a profession. They must take young men who had passed an examination, and put them as pupils in divers Consulates, giving them a small salary. Then, according to their fitness for the work they could be promoted to be vice-consuls, consuls, and consular-general with larger salaries. Our consular service in the matter of commercial intelligence was below that of France. He could not agree with his hon. friend opposite that the consular service should be put under the Board of Trade, and separated from the Foreign Office. The negotiations with foreign countries would not be put in the hands of the Board of Trade; they would be carried on by the Foreign Office. But they might attach more importance to the commercial department of the Foreign Office. They ought to have a very good man at the head of it, and he should look well after the consuls and the staff, and there should not be this tenth-cousin system of appointment. The reports received from the consuls should be sent to the Board of Trade, and if necessary communicated by the Foreign Office to the great towns and the commercial agencies in the United Kingdom. Then, he thought, we should have a much better service than at the present time.

Mr. Labouchere.

The hon. Member for King's Lynn complained of the policy of His Majesty's Government in Italy, and stated that it had led to the friendly feeling which used to exist between the two countries being considerably weakened. In that he entirely agreed with his hon. friend, but he went on to say that Lord Currie was absolutely responsible for this.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Not wholly.

MR. LABOUCHERE: Well, that Lord Currie was in part responsible. Lord Currie had to obey orders in Italy. His hon. friend said that the Italian Government had made application that His Majesty's Government should withdraw Lord Currie. He was very curious to hear whether that was a fact.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): No.

MR. LABOUCHERE: The noble Lord said it was not a fact. If Lord Currie, or any other person, made himself politically or socially disagreeable to the Government in the place where he resided, and that Government asked that the gentleman should be changed, he could perfectly understand that it would be wise on the part of His Majesty's Government to listen to that demand, and to put him in some other place. But he gathered that that was not the case in Rome. He thought it was hardly fair that his hon. friend should make the general railing accusation he had made against Lord Currie without giving the Committee chapter and verse. His hon. friend had said that Lord Currie's promotion was exceedingly quick. He had been in the Foreign Office for the last forty years, and rose gradually until he became Assistant Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He had been sufficiently long in what might be called the diplomatic service to entitle him to become an ambassador. The late Lord Pauncefoot was very much in the same position as Lord Currie, and he made an excellent ambassador, who rendered valuable service to the country. He did not think it was fair of his hon. friend to suggest that Lord Currie had been

pitch-forked into the position of ambassador in order to throw upon him the blame for what possibly the Foreign Office was responsible, unless he could show, chapter and verse, that he had bungled his instructions, or done something personally to produce ill-feeling between Italy and England, irrespective of the policy which was pursued by the Foreign Office.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said his remarks had been based on information given to him, from a source which he could scarcely have doubted, that the Court of Rome had absolutely requested the Foreign Office in London to recall Lord Currie; but if the noble Lord denied that, of course a large part of his argument fell to the ground.

THE MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian) asked whether, in view of the increasing importance of Vladivostok, the Foreign Office would not follow the example already set by Germany, and appoint a consul for that district.

* (5.40.) LORD CRANBORNE said they were quite alive to the importance of representation at Vladivostok. Germany had nothing quite so important as a consular agent there; they had, however, a commercial agent, which was, perhaps, a humbler form of the same article. No doubt it would be very much to the advantage of this country if we had a similar representative, and the matter was under consideration. The greater part of the debate had turned on the consular service, but some reference to the diplomatic service had been interposed. His hon. friend the Member for King's Lynn, with the passion for condemnation that always pursued him, had condemned the whole diplomatic service of the Empire as inefficient.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: No.

*LORD CRANBORNE said the ambassadors only shared the condemnation with the Government. He did not believe he had ever heard a single word of approval, either of his political friends, or of the public servants, from his hon. friend. He certainly should not

subscribe to his condemnation of our ambassadors. He thought his hon. friend was very properly answered by the hon. Member for Northampton. In attacking Lord Currie, he took no account of the policy that ambassadors had to pursue. It did not follow because an ambassador had not always been on good terms with the Court to which he was accredited that, therefore, it was the fault of the ambassador. An ambassador was a confidential person who carried out the instructions he received, and, if that occasionally brought him into conflict with the Court to which he was accredited, it only meant that he was a faithful servant in the discharge of his country's interests. For his part he had never heard that there was any unpopularity attaching to our ambassadors at St. Petersburg, Paris, or Berlin. What, then, became of his hon. friend's general condemnation?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he did not say a word about the ambassadors at St. Petersburg or Berlin. The only general reference he had made was as to the unfortunate result of recent Foreign Office policy in Turkey, Persia, Spain, and France.

*LORD CRANBORNE said, on the contrary, his hon. friend attributed unfortunate results to the incapacity of the British representatives.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: No.

*LORD CRANBORNE said he need only appeal to the record which must inevitably appear to prove that that was the case. The hon. Gentleman was quite entitled to attack the Government; he always did. But he left it to the Committee to say whether he was not wrong in first attacking the diplomatic representatives of this country throughout the world, and then attempting to explain it away by saying that what he really condemned was the policy of the Government. He did not share the hon. Member's views. Our ambassadors were placed in an especially difficult position, because this, being a world-wide Empire, we were brought into conflict, to some extent, with the interests of nearly every country in the world. He did not mean

to say that they were uniformly in conflict, but there were points and elements about the policy of this country which were in conflict with the interests of nearly every foreign country. Our interests, therefore, must be represented by our diplomatic representatives, and it was not surprising that on occasions they were not absolutely upon as good terms as he believed generally characterised their position. In regard to other countries, one of the difficulties which our policy had to encounter was that we were essentially non-aggressive in our policy; and the barbarous, or he meant rather the less civilised, countries were naturally enough strongly impressed with the influence and importance of Great Britain in the councils of the world. Notwithstanding the fact that our policy was non-aggressive and all for the maintenance of the *status quo*, we were able to exercise a great influence on the less civilised parts of the world. Reference had been made by his hon. friend to Lord Currie. This ambassador had been a very distinguished public servant for many years. He served his time in the Foreign Office, and rose to be the Principal Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office. In that capacity Lord Currie had earned the greatest credit to himself, and had conducted the affairs of the Foreign Office in a way which was beyond reproach. After this he was promoted to be an ambassador. As had already been pointed out, exactly the same course had been pursued in the case of Lord Pauncefoot; and now the hon. Member attacked Lord Currie as an ambassador. What had been his recent history? He ventured to say there was no country in Europe with whom we had worked on such cordial terms as Italy at this moment. Not only in Europe, but in Africa, many questions of great difficulty and delicacy, arose between the British and the Italian Governments along the north-east coast of Africa. We had worked hand in hand in Somaliland. All the difficulties there of late, which had been considerable, had been conducted without any friction whatever between ourselves and the Italian Government. The same thing could be said of the Sudan frontier; and he had occasion a few days ago

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to explain to the Committee that the recent difficulties with regard to Malta and Tripoli had been admirably solved. Were we to deprive our ambassadors abroad of the credit of this state of things? Was it fair of his hon. friend to gibbet Lord Currie as an incompetent ambassador when he had to his credit the solution of these several questions, and the smooth working of the international relations between this country and Italy? It was not fair; and the hon. Member ought to give Lord Currie the credit, which was his due, of having conducted to a successful conclusion these difficult matters which he had mentioned. As far as he was able to judge, our representatives in the diplomatic service were at least as good as those of any other country in the world, and we had no cause to be ashamed of them. They were quite ready in diplomacy to take account of commercial interests. The Foreign Office was in constant communication, for example, in regard to Chinese questions, with the commercial interests of this country. Perpetual communications were passing between ourselves and the China merchants in London, and those interested in the China trade and the Chinese question. Although he fully recognised that in modern times the consular service required to take special account of commercial considerations, he could not honestly say that there was an enthusiastic opinion on the subject among the best trading interests in this country. If the leading traders and manufacturers were asked whether they required assistance from our Consular agents, they almost invariably said "No; we mind our own business; we understand it twenty times better than your consuls; we have our own representatives, and this is part of the enterprise in which we are engaged." Though he recognised that they must do all they could in respect of the consular service, a word of caution was not out of place in pointing out that this was not the view of a part of the best trading interests of this country. He regretted that the hon. Member opposite had not given him notice as to the subject of Odessa, but he would make inquiries on the subject of the Consulate. With regard to Bolivia he could not subscribe to

the statement that our trade with that country was a large one. There was, however, a great deal to be said for the necessity of commercial representation. As to the promotion of Protectorate officials, he was afraid that something he said the other day had been misunderstood. He did not mean for a moment to say that our consular service ought to be entirely recruited from the administrators in our East Africa Protectorate. Not at all; but he repeated that it was not unfair that the administrators, who were able men, should look to some kind of reward where opportunity offered, consistently with the public service, in being removed, if they had done yeoman's work in those protectorates, to conditions more comfortable and constituting some kind of reward for their years of toil. They always gave a preference to British subjects in the appointment of consular officers, but the services of many foreign officials of the British Government were of the greatest value, and the sweeping condemnation which had been passed on them was quite undeserved. He cited the case of a Swiss gentleman in the British service, a man of distinction, who from his commercial knowledge and literary accomplishments had been of considerable service in acquainting us with the opportunities for British trade in Switzerland. When persons spoke of the defects of the consular service, the real difficulty was money. If they could persuade the Treasury to give unlimited funds the Foreign Office could have the best Englishmen that this country produced in order to represent it in the service, but they had not succeeded in persuading the Treasury to go to that length. They had the greatest difficulty in persuading the Treasury to increase by a single sovereign the amount which was devoted by this country to the consular service. He spoke as the representative of the Foreign Office, but he recognised the difficulty which the Treasury was placed in. It had to meet enormous calls in every service, and unless the House of Commons could persuade the Treasury to increase the sums of money at the disposal of the Department they could not increase beyond a certain point the *status* of their representatives all over the world.

MR. MOON: I suggested rearrangement and distribution of the money already in hand.

*LORD CRANBORNE said it was not an unfair suggestion, and he would give the subject his consideration. But had the Department done nothing? They had appointed a Departmental Committee to overhaul the whole conditions of entrance and qualifications for the consular service. It would be obviously premature and absurd on his part to discuss the subject while the Committee was inquiring into it, but he thought that commercial considerations ought to be taken more into account in the appointments made. He also thought that something might be done to give consuls a certain amount of commercial training, perhaps even after their appointment. The question was worthy of consideration, at any rate. Then as to their reports. They varied; some were better than others; but he did not think the universal condemnation of the reports was quite fair. The hon. Member for King's Lynn condemned one report.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he condemned no report at all; what he complained of was that the reports mentioned neither the date nor the place at which they were written.

*LORD CRANBORNE said that in the particular case mentioned by the hon. Member it was stated that the report was for the year 1901, and was written by His Majesty's Consul-General; and statistics were given on such subjects as railway traffic and Custom-house returns for a series of years up to 1901. Why did the hon. Member always condemn without consideration?

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: What is the date of the report?

*LORD CRANBORNE: For the year 1901; it is as plain as the nose on your face. Recently the Foreign Office had been attempting to specify in rather greater detail the kind of commercial relations which were expected of consuls in dealing with traders. It was not easy. Anything like using public servants as

advertisers or touts for particular articles had to be avoided. Such a thing would be greatly resented in this country. On the other hand, consuls were in a position to acquire a great deal of information, and the Foreign Office had laid it down that all the information which consuls could communicate without breach of confidence should be placed at the service of British traders. In order that the consuls might be of more direct use for the assistance of colonial trade, the Foreign Office had also arranged, on the application of one of the colonies, that they should be allowed to correspond directly with the Colonial Governments, and so establish one more proof of the usefulness of the Imperial connection with the colonies. But, though it was desirable that the consuls should subserve commercial interests, that was not the only thing they had to do. They were concerned with matters of shipping, marriage, bills of exchange, wills, and declarations; and many other matters with regard to the maritime part of their work. In one year the Consular Office at Antwerp was instrumental in engaging nearly 16,000 seamen, and in discharging rather more. One of the duties of the consul was to act as a sort of intermediary in sending home the money of British sailors; and from the office at Hamburg alone as much as £19,000 was remitted in small sums for the benefit of British sailors. That corresponded with a very widely extended sphere of work of the consuls, and it was only fair to bear in mind that in addition to their commercial work they had these other obligations of very long standing also to attend to. It was not only consuls that were used by the Foreign Office to further commercial interest. Recently the Foreign Office thought it would be advantageous to bring the commercial agents—whose work was still in an experimental stage—into direct contact with the trading centres of this country; and so the two most important of those agents, from Russia and America, came to England, and visited many of the large centres of industry. Their reception was very instructive. In many places there was no enthusiasm, and it was evident that there was no consensus of opinion,

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as to the importance of these agents' work, among the best commercial men. The secretary of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce wrote to ask whether the agents represented the Government, because he had never heard of them. The Belfast Chamber of Commerce said that the Chamber did not think fit to take any action; and the President of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce stated that the larger manufacturers thought they could obtain all the necessary information from their own agents, and that, as the smaller manufacturers sold their produce to the larger, they were not concerned. It was easy to understand that while this departure was in an experimental stage there should be a certain amount of indifference to it among commercial classes; but he had said enough to show that, while the Foreign Office was making every effort to assist commercial interests, they had some difficulties to contend with. But the Foreign Office would persevere, because they believed that the information which the commercial agents were able to acquire, and the representation of British interests which they were able to provide, was a useful thing; and they hoped that, as the great trading centres became more accustomed to the work of the agents, the indifference now displayed would disappear.

(6.8.) SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick) said that no one would grudge the time which the noble Lord had taken in dwelling upon the importance of the consular service. What the House of Commons desired to be assured of was that the growing importance of that service was receiving adequate recognition from the Government of the day. He had heard a great deal of sound doctrine from the hon. Member for Northampton on this subject. The hon. Member said that one Front Bench was as bad as the other in this matter. For thirteen of the seventeen years he had been in Parliament he had scarcely seen a Liberal Government in power, and he must say that the atoms of responsibility which might rest on a Liberal Government seemed to him to have quite disappeared in the much larger share of responsibility monopolised by

the other side. The object, as laid down by the hon. Member, was that of having better trade and a more energetic consular service. Of course he advocated that; but let the Committee bear in mind that where there were shortcomings in the consular service it was simply because economy had been so pressed on the Government of the day. In order to secure a sufficient service a considerable amount of money must be spent on it. He quite agreed that a rearrangement and redistribution of the amount now spent might do something, but it would not do all that was wanted. He thought that more would have to be spent; and he would ask hon. Members to bear in mind that, though in times of peace we should spend much less than in time of war, there were services which required considerable expenditure in times of peace. He thought the noble Lord should bear in mind that one Department of the Government ought not to compete against another. What they desired was to have a policy on the part of the Government. The Chancellor of the Exchequer for the time being must follow in the lines of the policy of his Government. Of course it rested with the Treasury to demand from the Government that a good case should be made out for any increase of expenditure in any Department; but it must rest with the Prime Minister of the day to decide, as between the Treasury and any other Department, whether this increase should be granted. If the House of Commons was to depart from the rigid application of economy in these matters, it must be invited to do so by the Government of the day. He was most reluctant to see the House of Commons force further expenditure upon the Government. He thought when the Government were obliged to admit shortcomings, as the noble Lord had done, they should be more ready to come forward and say that these shortcomings were inevitable because not enough money had been spent. What they would like to see was a more professional consular service, and men being specially trained for the work. But, having got men specially trained for the work, they must see that their promotion in the consular service was as far as possible in accordance with merit. Men who had

been specially trained for the work must receive adequate recognition whenever they responded to the training that had been given them. The hon. Member for Northampton would have to bear in mind that if they got a highly trained, intelligent, and universal consular service, men who had been highly trained, and had not only great ability but energy, were rather apt to be active supporters of British interests in whatever part of the world they were placed. If they had an active, intelligent consular service, the House must be ready on occasion to support the Government of the day in backing up the pushing of British interests in places where an energetic consular officer had decided that support was needed. In fact, the House of Commons must be ready to vote more money for the consular service, and to place more confidence in it, and to expect to see the Government support British interests in those places where support was needed. In regard to the consular Reports, he thought it unfair to pick individual Reports out of the whole mass. The number of Reports was so large that there must be a great variety of merit amongst them. He thought everything should be done to encourage good Reports. Not nearly enough had been done by the Government or by public opinion to crystallise any standard of what was a good Report. He doubted whether a consular officer, in drawing up his Report, had a sufficiently clear idea of what the Government wished him to do. Consular officers should be made to feel that the excellence of their Reports did not pass without notice, but that it resulted in improving their own position in the consular service. The Chambers of Commerce ought to explain to the Government what they wanted. Whenever a trader found a consular Report which was useful to him he should bring it before his Chamber, and the Chamber of Commerce should, in turn, lay it before the Government as the sort of Report that was useful to them. That would enormously help the Government the day in advising consular officers as to the sort of Reports which were really of use to this country. The noble Lord had told them that in many places Chambers of Commerce were comparatively indifferent to the consular work that was being done. Well, we had to remember that we were passing

through a time of very great prosperity, which he hoped would continue. In a time of great prosperity, when the country was turning out as much work as it could do, there was always a certain danger of indifference growing up in commercial circles as to consular work. When the great trading districts of this country were turning out as much work as they could do, they were not likely to be very anxious about whether new markets were being formed, or whether a market was being lost, in another part of the world. That was just the danger against which they must endeavour in every way to guard. They must not lose that general level of industry in which the consular service would be doubly advantageous to this country in bad times. There were difficulties connected with the use of our consular service or diplomatic service as a means of pushing British industry abroad. In a country where British trade had been established for a long time they would probably find many British firms, and if there was a contract to be given or a piece of business to be obtained, they might find three or four British firms competing. But if there was a foreign country which was anxious to get a footing in that country, the Government of that foreign country might say to a firm of their own nationality. "There is no firm of our nationality doing business in this country, and there is considerable feeling. If you will go there we will support you." And, if that foreign firm went to that country, it had the full support of diplomatic and consular influence behind it. If, where there were three or four British firms, the British consular agent were to set himself to work entirely on the side of one firm, it would be said that he was doing something that was unfair. That was a condition of things that would be altered in the course of time, because as the number of foreign firms increased, foreign Governments would have to deal with the same difficulties that we had had to deal with. He thought it would be interesting if, on a future occasion, the Foreign Office would give them a synopsis of what other countries had been doing in regard to their consular services. They heard that the United States and Germany had increased their

trade enormously; and it would be interesting to know what use they had made of their consular services in the matter, how much more had been spent on their consular services, and how many new posts had been established. The time had come when we must be more than ever alert to learn the extent to which other countries—those which were our especial rivals—were increasing their consular services, and the amount of money they were spending on the salaries they gave to their consular officers in different parts of the world. That information would be interesting as a test of comparison as to how we stood ourselves. He now passed from the consular service to the diplomatic questions affecting the larger issues of policy which had been raised. He was sorry he had not heard the speech of the hon. Member for King's Lynn, but he regretted to hear that for once, in an unwonted anxiety to relieve His Majesty's Government, he had attacked one of His Majesty's Ambassadors. He was glad the hon. Member had already modified his criticism on the statement that the noble Lord had made that no demand had been made for the withdrawal of Lord Currie by the Italian Government.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he had explained that his remarks were based on information given to him that the Court of Rome had absolutely requested the recall of Lord Currie.

SIR EDWARD GREY said he was glad the matter had ended in that way. He was sure that anybody who had been associated with Lord Currie in public work would understand his being a *persona grata* wherever he was placed, and would be very glad to be associated with him in public work again. It was quite true it might be difficult, in some circumstances, for ambassadors to be popular with the Governments to whom they were accredited. The noble Lord opposite said we had so many points of conflict with different countries. We had a great many points of contact, and it was the first duty of an ambassador, while upholding British interests, to prevent points of contact becoming points of conflict. There were times

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when that became impossible, and when it had been stated or hinted in debate that Lord Currie failed to be popular at Constantinople, he would say that that was distinctly a case in which he should not blame the ambassador. The circumstances were such that he thought it would be impossible for a British Ambassador to be popular at Constantinople in the trying times through which Lord Currie passed during the first years he was there, consistently with his doing his duty to his own Government at home, and to the great international and moral questions that were raised at that time. But though he would be entirely against attacking an Ambassador on any occasion at the expense of His Majesty's Government, he thought the noble Lord went a little too far when he claimed such great credit to Lord Currie on the ground that the Italian policy had been so successful. He had no criticism to make on Lord Currie in the matter of policy. On matters of policy the Government alone must be held responsible. He did not think the Italian policy had been so conspicuously successful that it was entitled to be given as an instance of great diplomatic achievement. He should be glad not to be misunderstood in this matter. Criticism had been passed because a friendly understanding had been brought about between the French and Italian Governments. He would not have had Lord Currie or His Majesty's Government do anything in the world to prevent that good understanding being brought about. A few years ago it might have sounded like a paradox, perhaps, to say that His Majesty's Government and the French Government should go hand-in-hand in African and Mediterranean questions, and that, therefore, if His Majesty's Government were going hand-in-hand with Italy, it would be impossible that Italy could go hand-in-hand with France. Things had changed in the last few years. Some causes of friction with the French Government had become very ancient, but, what was still more, many of those almost innumerable points of contact in Africa, which many of them feared were likely to become points of conflict, had been adjusted in a peaceable and satisfactory manner between the

two countries, with the result that boundaries had everywhere been drawn between British and French Possessions in Africa, and the French had now got an enormous territory in Africa, along which boundaries had been drawn mutually between the two countries in so far as they touched our own territory—an enormous territory, which was not open to the reproach that it was not worth having, but which, on the contrary, when it was developed, might become an enormous and valuable French Empire in Africa. That excited, he believed, neither apprehension nor jealousy, nor grumbling in this country. While boundary questions were pending in West Africa, there was, perhaps, some apprehension. But now that they had been settled, though criticisms were passed at the time that too much was being given away, the settlement had been accepted by this country, and we looked forward to being occupied in developing our own territory; and he believed we had not an atom of jealousy or apprehension in the matter, or any desire that the French territory should not succeed as well as our own. That being so, he saw no reason why the French and Italian understanding should result in England being on worse terms with the Italian Government. But he was not sure that His Majesty's Government had managed matters satisfactorily. Why he did not criticise Lord Currie in the matter was simply this. The point which occurred to his mind was that this was just one of those agreements which we made with the French Government some years ago, which did give rise to apprehension in the Italian mind that Italian interests, present or prospective, in Tripoli, were in some way being affected by the agreement which had been come to. He thought there was no need for that apprehension, but there was need of tact and foresight by which all suspicion and apprehension in the Italian mind had been prevented. It was almost impossible, if they did not do these things at the time, to entirely get rid of apprehension. What he should like to be quite sure about was that the agreement between France and Italy had not been arrived

at at the expense of our own relations with the Italian Government. He thought he might urge that because it was not a counsel of perfection which was unattainable. Lord Currie's action was not the question; he could not possibly adjust the relations between the British the Italian and the French Governments unless he had instructions from home. Where it was a question of preserving the good relations between the three countries, it was largely a matter of policy for which the Ambassador could not be held responsible. He would only say, in conclusion, that he did not grudge in the least the better understanding between Italy and France. In fact, he welcomed it, because he had always felt it to be a most undesirable situation that it should be supposed that any understanding between England and Italy should make it impossible for ourselves or Italy to arrange affairs with France in the same cordial way. He welcomed it as a great obstacle to peace which had now been removed. He was glad that the Italian Government did arrange its own affairs with the French Government in the manner in which it had arranged them. But what he contended for was that there should be tact and watchfulness on the part of the British Government, so as to make it perfectly clear to both parties that this country regarded the arrangement as one which should not impair its relations with either. He expressed his satisfaction at the fact that the hon. Member for Lynn Regis did not intend to press his Motion which he made—that the salary of the Ambassador at Rome should be reduced—because he was sure it was one which could not be supported by anyone who had ever been associated with Lord Currie in public work.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES, in asking leave to withdraw his Motion, said that, as the noble Lord had stated most distinctly that His Majesty's Government had not received any demand from the Italian Government for the withdrawal of Lord Currie, he thought he ought to express his regret at having given currency to a statement which he, at the time, fully believed to be founded on fact.

* (6.38.) SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that he agreed with his right hon.

Sir Edward Grey.

friend (Sir E. Grey) as to ninety-nine-hundredths of what he had said, and therefore he would not occupy the time of the Committee by referring to the points of agreement, but simply deal with one or two matters in regard to which his views did not fully coincide with those of his right hon. friend. On the question of Consular representation there was a tendency on the part of all who had been connected with the Foreign Office to ignore the fact that there had been a good deal of jobbery in connection with Consular appointments. Personally he was acquainted—as other Members must be—with notorious cases in which men, by an undue use of the patronage of various Secretaries of State, had been “jobbed” into Consular appointments for which they were totally unfit, and the interests of the country had suffered in very high degree in consequence. There was also the fact that most meritorious Consuls had for years laboured very hard indeed in the service of the country, and in the commercial work to which so much importance was properly attached, and had then frequently been passed over, and men from outside had been “jobbed” over their heads into posts which were regarded as the prizes of the profession, and to which these Consuls ought to have been appointed as a reward for the good work they had done. Subject to these remarks—and he thought there was already some improvement in regard to the matters to which he referred, which improvement, under the watchfulness of the House, must be constant—he concurred in all that had fallen from his right hon. friend on the subject. Passing to the more important question of the diplomatic relations of this country, he did not think that, in his heart, any Member of the Committee could really be of opinion that our Consular and Diplomatic Services were what they might or ought to be. The Under Secretary of State had said, as regarded the Consular Service, that a Departmental Committee was now sitting; and he had stated what that Committee was considering, and what he hoped it might do. But all the Departments of the State were in some degree like the War Office in this respect—that Committee after Committee was appointed, excellent reports were made, but little action resulted. It was

a curious fact that the very points selected by the noble Lord as being matters on which, because of the appointment of this Committee, he could not speak, were most fully considered by the Ridley Commissioners a few years ago, and recommendations were made, which had been only in part acted upon. These very points of jobbery were dealt with not obscurely in the Report, and steps ought to have been taken to avoid the repetition of such proceedings. It was only by constant watchfulness on the part of the Committee and of the public generally, that the Consular and Diplomatic Services would be kept up to the mark. As to the diplomatic side of the question, he was confident that there was not a Member of the Committee who, in private, would for a moment maintain that our diplomatic representation, either at Rome or at Peking, during recent events, had been what it might have been. Too good a face was being put upon facts when it was suggested that our representation had been the most competent in affairs of such moment to the State. He fully agreed that the main responsibility for what had occurred at Rome—to which, on the present occasion, he would confine his remarks—must rest upon the policy of the Government. But were His Majesty's Government thoroughly well informed by their Ambassador at Rome as to what was passing? Did any Member of the Committee believe that while the French Embassy at Rome was in the hands of Monsieur Barrère we were adequately represented by our Ambassador, and that the Government had been thoroughly informed? It was impossible to watch what occurred at Rome during last winter without seeing that there had been failure, both of policy and of the agent of the policy, and that we were not competently represented throughout those transactions. He agreed very largely with the right hon. Gentleman as to the general nature of what those transactions might have been, and the general turn which might usefully have been given to the negotiations, but he was amazed at the statement of the noble Lord that our relations with Italy had never been more cordial, and at his claiming

for Lord Currie the credit of having restored those relations to the position of extreme cordiality. No member of the Committee who had followed the official declarations of the Governments of Austria, Italy and France upon this subject could believe that our relations with Italy at present were restored to the position of cordiality of a few years ago. Then we had an agreement on the lines of our general policy of the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Mediterranean, whereas now, so far as could be gathered from the explanations given in Austria, Italy and France, that agreement had been replaced by an arrangement to which Italy had come having in view not the maintenance, but the disruption of the *status quo*.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) who also had on the Paper a Motion to reduce the Vote for the salary of the Under Secretary of State by £1,000, said that he regretted the noble Lord had not dealt more exhaustively with the criticism of the extravagance with the arrangement of the Consular service. In addition to the Ambassador at Berlin, Ministers were maintained at Bavaria, Darmstadt, and Saxony. He should have thought that the Minister at Berlin would be able to deal with all the affairs in Germany, and in this connection he desired to know whether these small States had representatives at the British Court. £3,550 was voted annually for the maintenance of these Ministers and their underlings. It might be said that it was extremely useful for young diplomats to have an opportunity of learning their business at small and unimportant courts. As regarded the economic question, as an Irish Member he was deeply interested in this matter, because a certain portion of it came out of the pockets of the people of Ireland. Therefore he trusted that there would be an adequate explanation given of this matter. It had been stated by the noble Lord that the Maltese question had been solved, but was the Foreign Office ignorant of what was going on there? Far from this question being solved, it was in a condition which was anything but satisfactory.

* LORD CRANBORNE: What I said was that all the soreness which existed in Italy with regard to the Maltese question had been removed.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): That is not so.

* LORD CRANBORNE: Does the hon. Member say that I am not stating correctly what I did say?

MR. WEIR: Oh, no!

MR. BOLAND: I understand that this question is not solved in regard to Malta?

* LORD CRANBORNE: I am not responsible for the Government of Malta.

MR. BOLAND said he was glad to have this explanation, and he hoped the noble Lord would show why this enormous sum of £3,550 was spent in this way.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford) thought that these Consular Reports should at least be business-like, otherwise they were not worth the paper they were printed upon, and it would be a waste of time to read them and publish them. It was well known how unbusiness-like the Foreign Office were in these matters, and our trade and commerce suffered in consequence. Our Consular Reports compared very unfavourably with those of the United States. America spent a much larger sum of money, and employed fifty-one Consuls in Germany, as compared with five paid officials representing Great Britain in Germany. That showed how unbusiness-like the Foreign Office method was, and, in his opinion, this Department ought to be placed in charge of a Minister of Commerce. This question very much affected the Colonies, because foreign Governments had Consuls and commercial attachés in all our Colonies, with the result that they snatched the trade which should come to this country. They had no information sent them to guide English traders and manufacturers. This was not the only point in which this country was behind, for in South Africa and Japan similar things were occurring. In South Africa, during the

war, France and Germany sent out agents to report what could be done there for their manufactures, and all kinds of trade in manufactured articles and contracts had been taken away from us. That was the result of inadequate commercial information, for they had a right to demand reliable information for the money which was spent. The noble Lord the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs seemed to be satisfied that the amount of commerce with Bolivia was so small that it was not worth considering.

* LORD CRANBORNE: I did not say that. What I said was that the trade was comparatively small.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR said that Bolivia did a large trade with this country. He wished to point out to the noble Lord that our commerce and diplomatic relations with Bolivia had been interrupted on account of the unwarrantable action of the British agent out there. Since the year 1840 there had been no commercial or diplomatic relations with that country owing to the action of this agent. Some promises had been made upon this point, and he trusted good results would follow. They ought to have some better assurance that these matters would be looked into. The allocation of the money in these Estimates was absolutely unbusiness-like, and he questioned whether the Committee knew what these Consuls actually did. Anyone who travelled on the Continent knew that if he required the assistance of a British Consul he often had to drive four or five miles away from the town to find him. Our Consuls were generally called in chiefly to settle disputes in regard to the bills of lading, but if the representatives of this country abroad were appointed on account of their qualifications and understood our commercial requirements, he was sure they would have infinitely better results and better reports. The British commercial attaché in France had not only to look after France, but also Italy and Switzerland, and our German representatives had also to look after Norway, Finland, and portions of Russia. Under those circumstances could they hope to get any

useful information from men who had to cover so much ground? The Foreign Office might be an excellent Department in regard to diplomacy, but when it undertook duties which properly belonged to the Board of Trade, such as the appointment of the commercial attachés and Consuls, it must result in bad work. They had always had bad work and bad reports, and this state of things would remain as long as the Foreign Office undertook to do what it could not possibly perform satisfactorily. His noble friend the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was excellent in diplomacy, but what did he know about trade and commerce? It had been clearly shown in the past that it was not to the advantage of this country at large to combine these two important offices. He hoped it would be realised that a Minister of commerce was urgently needed, and it was on these grounds that he ventured to bring these matters before the Committee.

(7.0.) Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said the hon. Member who had just sat down appeared to have a most exaggerated idea of what could be accomplished by the Foreign Office if they had a Minister for commerce. He was of opinion that if British manufacturers and merchants were to be helped, they must in the main help themselves. What the Foreign Office could do was, by comparison, trivial. The whole subject was inquired into, and a new departure was taken during the eighties, with which the commercial men of the country expressed themselves satisfied. The debates which had since taken place had not advanced us much. An addition had been made to the number of commercial attachés, and on one occasion a certain number of persons were sent out, who travelled through a considerable area and sent reports. If anything else were to be done it must be an entirely new departure. It was perfectly true, as had been stated, that at various times in the past there had been great abuses of patronage in the Consular Service, and a great many people had been put into it who were not fit for the work, while, on the other hand, the efforts of many conscientious and able men had been overlooked, and they had

not received the promotion which was their due. He regretted that he had not heard from the noble Lord a much more distinct acknowledgment that the time had come for making the Consular Service a proper branch of the Civil Service. If they had a regular system of changes, and gave the Members that knowledge of languages and commercial law which would fit them to give good reports, and then assured them that their work would be carefully watched and adequately rewarded, they would secure a service which would be much more efficient than the present, and would meet the demands of the commercial world. He agreed with the noble Lord that it was to a considerable extent a question of money, but it was not a question of a large sum of money. The amount required to make our Consular Service equally competent with that of Germany or France or the United States was a mere trifle compared with the amount spent on the Diplomatic and Consular Services altogether. Although something might be done in the way of rearrangement, it would be necessary, in order to have that properly settled, that the Treasury should take a much more enlightened view of this matter than it did at present. When he was at the Foreign Office he found that when an application was made to the Treasury for a grant of money for a new purpose, such as the appointment of a consular agent, the Treasury said they would give the money if the Foreign Office would undertake to make a reduction in some other quarter. The Treasury accepted the reduction in respect of some other expense which was being incurred, but did not make the new appointment. The consequence was that the Departments were not nearly so ready to go to the Treasury as otherwise, and the Treasury lost the opportunity of benefiting the public service. There was something grotesque about the way in which, under our system of Government, one Department blamed another. But the Government ought to have one policy in this matter, and the noble Lord could not shield his Department by coming down and saying that it was all the fault of the Treasury.

*LORD CRANBORNE: I added to the observations I ventured to make, that, on these pecuniary subjects, I fully recognise that the Treasury have some case, because they have immense obligation in other directions.

Mr. BRYCE agreed that they had; but said that at the same time the expenditure in this case, if properly made, would be reproductive expenditure, and therefore it ought to be fairly considered by the Treasury. A sum of £10,000 or £15,000 might very usefully be added to our Consular expenditure, but he would spend that money not so much in establishing new Consulates as in extending the system of commercial attachés. Something had been said about the Consular reports; they could not be criticised as a whole. There were good and bad among them. They might as well try to criticise the novels of the last five years. Some of the reports were so scanty as to be nothing better than a few tables of statistics. He had seen a good many of the reports of United States Consuls, and he would suggest to the Foreign Office that our representatives abroad should furnish us with similar reports. They were short treatises on the commercial possibilities of the future. If the commercial attachés would endeavour to produce something like the United States Consular reports, they would add very much to the resources of our commercial men. He was glad to hear that a Committee was sitting upon the subject, and he only hoped that a little more would be done as a consequence than was done after the report of a former Committee. In regard to Italy, he was glad to hear the noble Lord express the belief that our relations with that country were as cordial as ever they had been. He entirely agreed that the conclusion of the agreement between France and Italy ought not to give any umbrage to this country.

*MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said that, in the debate which took place recently, the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs stated that the Government were abandoning their efforts to obtain the abolition of *likin* duties in China. In regard to that statement, he was afraid

he had nothing but disapproval to express. He did not concur in the sweeping criticism made from the opposite Benches on the occasion of the last debate, to the effect that every European Government looked after the interests of its subjects in China except our own. He would make quite a contrary statement. This country was the first to initiate the armed interference which had secured the tranquillity of China. It had also been foremost in pressing for the abolition of restrictive duties, and, in fact, it had encouraged the policy of the open door. In regard to other countries getting concessions to make railways, he said that if we maintained the policy of the open door, the more railways were constructed by other people the better it would be for British merchants. He had been connected for a long period with many experts in the China trade, and the opinion expressed by almost every one of them with regard to the abolition of the *likin* stations was that final success was almost certain, if the Government persevered in their efforts. The noble Lord mentioned that the difficulties would be almost insurmountable, because the larger part of the *likin* duties was raised on native and not on foreign trade. He quite concurred with the noble Lord as to the difficulties of abolishing these duties. Probably the difficulties of the Chinese Government in raising the indemnity fund had magnified their other difficulties. He, however, was encouraged to hope from the further statement of the noble Lord that they would be able, by fiscal arrangements at any rate, to relieve foreign trade in China from those enormous and uncertain burdens imposed upon it. Perhaps, as one having had some experience in the China trade, he might be allowed to give a little advice, and that was that in pursuing their more moderate policy the Government should follow as much as possible Article 28 of the Treaty of Tien-Tsin of 1858, when, after defining the method of the payment of transit dues, declared that the Chinese Government should issue certificates which should exempt British goods from all further imports under whatever name. If the Government were to insist on the observance of that Article, British merchants would be relieved, of an intolerable burden to

which they had been subjected for many years past. But the total abolition of *likin* would be not only to the enormous benefit of the British merchants, but of the Chinese themselves.

***LORD CRANBORNE** said that his hon. friend who had just sat down seemed to imagine that the Government had abandoned all hope of the abolition of the *likin*. He must remind the Committee that *likin* was imposed upon two classes of merchandise — foreign and native. As far as the interests of this country were concerned, all that we cared for was to relieve foreign merchandise of this burden. Native *likin* was far larger than foreign. It had been said that unless the *likin* stations were abolished altogether, illegal impositions would continue. The Foreign Office were at first impressed with that view, and entertained a hope that they should persuade the Chinese Government to abolish the *likin* stations altogether. But when they began to inquire into the matter, they found that a large trading opinion in this country was against them. Those engaged in the China trade, in Manchester, Blackburn, Bradford, and elsewhere, and the China Association in London, were all agreed that the total abolition of the stations was impossible, and for this reason, that the amount of money involved in the abolition of native *likin* was so considerable that no increase in Customs duties would make good anything like the deficiency which would result. In deference to the views of those trading interests which were urged upon the Foreign Office, they were reluctantly compelled to abolish that policy. But as to the abolition of *likin* upon foreign merchandise, that they still hoped to achieve. His hon. friend the Member for the Romford Division had said that we were very much under represented by Consular agents in China as compared with Germany. The hon. Member was under a total misapprehension. Our Consular and diplomatic agents numbered thirty-five. As regards the character of the Consular reports on trade, he pointed out that it was impossible for the Consuls to go into the elaborate technical details which some gentlemen seemed to require,

but, on the other hand, he admitted that some of those reports might be better. One of the things which the Foreign Office was at present engaged in was to raise the quality of the Consular trade reports which were under the standard, and with that view they were now in communication with the Board of Trade in the hope of enlisting their assistance and co-operation.

***MR. WEIR** said he trusted the noble Lord would see the importance of the reduction of the *likin*, especially on foreign goods. That tax affected British industry to a serious extent. There should be either the abolition of the *likin* or the imposition of a single tax at the port of entry, which would cover both *likin* and transit. He called the attention of the noble Lord to the fact that the British Consular offices in the East were only kept open from ten to twelve and from two to four, whereas the American Consular offices were kept open for two hours longer every day. He was not surprised, therefore, that the American merchants were getting larger orders than the British. There was not that go on the part of the British Consuls which there ought to be. Again, he wanted to know why the British Consul at Kobe failed to refer in his Consular Reports to industries in his district, the export value of which through the Kobe Customs did not exceed 200,000 yen annually. For instance, an industry such as the Tansan Mineral Water in which the population of all the villages around the "source" near Kobe were employed. This natural mineral water was the favourite water of the East, and not only largely exported from Kobe, but from Nagasaki, Yokohama and other Japanese ports, yet no reference whatever has been made to it in the Consular Report, although it is owned and conducted by an Englishman.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported tomorrow ; Committee also report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

SUPPLY [SEVENTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY].
Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS IV.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,712, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1903, for Public Education in Scotland, and for Science and Art in Scotland, including a Grant in Aid."

(9.0.) MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said that undoubtedly in Scotland, as in England, education was on the eve of considerable change, and that probably this would be the last occasion on which the Committee of the House would be able to express itself before these changes were brought forward by the Government. Under the Education Bil. for England, the entire burden of elementary education and of secondary education up to a certain extent would be placed upon the ratepayers, the system thereby created thus approaching very closely to the existing Scottish system. To give effect to that system, the Government proposed to give to the English ratepayers a sum equal to 7s. 6d. per child in average attendance, and it was obvious that Scotland had a claim for an equivalent payment. The number of scholars in average attendance in Scotland was 645,404, which at 7s. 6d. per scholar would be £242,000 per annum.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order! If the hon. Gentleman wishes to discuss an increase in the Grant that will require legislation, which, of course, is out of order on this vote.

MR. CALDWELL said it was admitted on all hands that, owing to the payments made to England, Scotland would be entitled to the sum. He hoped therefore that, in the negotiations of the Scottish Education Department with the Treasury—

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order! It is quite out of order to discuss the Education Bill upon this vote.

MR. CALDWELL said he did not wish to discuss that Bill, but the policy which the Education Department would pursue in the matter with the Treasury.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Of course, whatever future negotiations may take place, they will have to result in legislation if an increased grant is given, and to discuss that would necessarily be out of order.

MR. CALDWELL suggested that legislation was not necessary. This was the only way in which they had an opportunity of expressing an opinion.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I must rule the hon. Member out of order. We have only to deal with money granted out of the Estimates, and not with money which may in future be granted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. CALDWELL said his point was that it would be quite competent to increase the grant by a Vote of the House under the Code. He hoped that the Scottish Office would insist on Scotland receiving equal treatment with England. When the Vote was last before the House, it was suggested that secondary education in Scotland should be dealt with on one uniform system, apart from the elementary system of education. He hoped the Government would not give any effect to a suggestion of that kind, because in Scotland—unlike England—their system had been entirely parochial, and had embraced in the same school secondary as well as elementary education. Another suggestion was that of the hon. Member for Haddingtonshire, that education in Scotland should be divided into centres connected with the four universities. A system of that kind would be foreign to Scottish education, and would, he thought, meet with very

strong opposition. He was likewise entirely opposed to freeing secondary education, just as elementary education was free, because in Scotland they had already ample provision by which any child could make his way from the elementary school right on to the university. In these Estimates, only 3s. a head was given to the voluntary schools in Scotland, while the grant was 5s. a head in England, and that was another grievance. He moved to reduce the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,612, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire) said that the hon. Member had stated truly that the general policy of education in Scotland had been discussed on former occasions. With regard to the proper disposition of the secondary education money, it had always been the pride of the Scottish elementary school that the pupil could go on to the secondary education, and that position was acknowledged by the Act of 1872, which gave the School Boards not only the direction of elementary, but of secondary education. He understood the view of the hon. Member was that the best disposition of the money would be to encourage local effort. According to the best educational views, they did not do the best for secondary education by dribbling their help into what were essentially primary schools; it was better to take advantage of what secondary schools existed at present, and make them better. There were parts of the country where there were excellent secondary schools, and where the task was a comparatively easy one; but there were other parts where there were no secondary schools, and that was one of the difficulties which they had to encounter, and in these circumstances, when they had only a certain amount of money, they must do the best they could with it. He did not think that it was for the benefit of education in the proper sense of the word and the public generally that necessarily they should pay at the expense of the State for the secondary education of every child. The proper view was rather to encourage the bursary

system, or, in other words, the promotion of the child who was best fitted to go on to secondary education. But it was quite obvious that what was happening in connection with English education indicated a new departure on the part of the State, and in connection with this question they had to consider the situation in Scotland from its beginning. He had the assurance from the Prime Minister that equal justice in this matter would be done to Scotland and Ireland. It would be premature to consider how that was to be worked out, as the situation was different from that of England. They in Scotland might thank their stars that they never had had the religious difficulty as it existed in England. In Scotland they were frankly denominational, and there was no difficulty in being denominational. They had the universal Board system, because they had not the denominational difficulty; but do not let them be trammelled by English precedent. The question would receive the earnest consideration of his noble friend; and there was no Scotsman who had given more earnest consideration to the question, or had a greater personal regard for the educational system, than had the present Secretary for Scotland. He hoped, therefore, that the hon. Gentleman would not persist in his Motion.

MR. CALDWELL said he moved the reduction in respect of the voluntary schools.

*MR. A. GRAHAM-MURRAY: It was obvious that they would have to begin on a new basis. As the hon. Gentleman was aware, the grants now given in England would have to be surrendered under the Bill now before the House; and when Scotland received a new Imperial contribution, that would also apply. Therefore, the question raised by the hon. Gentleman was, perhaps, a matter of historical discussion between the hon. Gentleman and himself, but he did not think it was a sufficient ground on which to base a reduction of the vote.

MR. CALDWELL said he had been ruled out of order when he attempted to deal with the new state of things; and, therefore, he would fall back on the existing state of things. He was not to

be prevented from presenting his case to the Committee by the new proposals, which did not meet his objection at all. It was all very well for the Lord Advocate to say that the system was to be swept away; but how did they stand in Scotland at the present moment? In Scotland they only got 3s. per child in the voluntary schools, whereas 5s. per child was paid in England. All the other money required for education in Scotland was supplied from Scottish sources, and not a penny beyond 3s. per head was paid by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. That was an undoubted fact; and, therefore, so far as the estimate was concerned, it was unfair to Scotland.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said that if the hon. Gentleman would not take a reasonable view of the matter, he was quite prepared to argue with him a twice-told tale. The hon. Gentleman was in the illogical position, perhaps, because of the forms of the House, that he was moving to reduce the estimate because he had not got more. The hon. Gentleman would remember that his right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated again and again that he entirely repudiated the idea of an equivalent grant—the idea that because England in one year got a certain sum of money for educational purposes, Scotland should also get a certain proportion calculated on the ratio of eleven to eighty, or any other figure. That was really what was at the bottom of the hon. Gentleman's contention. What his right hon. friend said was that if England were given a certain additional subvention from the Imperial Exchequer for educational needs, that would necessarily raise a concomitant claim on the part of Scotland for her educational needs, but that they should look upon the situation as a whole. He had heard, he was sure, the speech of the hon. Gentleman at least seven times. What the Chancellor of the Exchequer said on the occasion to which the hon. Gentleman referred was that he would keep up the 12s. subvention to Scotland instead of the 10s. given to England. The hon. Member now said that that had not cost the Chancellor of the Exchequer a penny. That was true. But why?

Mr. Caldwell.

Simply because the produce of the probate duty had, owing to the prosperity of the country, turned out so much larger than was expected that there was no necessity to have recourse to the guarantee obligation. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made a promise which did not ring into money, but that was not the point on which the right hon. Gentleman was to be judged. The point was the total subvention from Imperial contributions for education in Scotland as against England. The hon. Member knew as well as he did that, taking every contribution to education from Imperial sources, it would be found that more per child was given in Scotland than was given in England. To a certain extent children in Scotland earned the money, but he could not think it could be regarded as a grievance when Scotland was paid more out of the Imperial Exchequer than England, and it did not seem to be a good reason for moving the reduction of the Vote. The real point of the speech of the hon. Gentleman was that he wished to have justice done to Scotland, in connection with the new arrangements. There he was entirely with the hon. Gentleman; but whether he could satisfy the hon. Gentleman in the application of the money was a different thing, as he would have to choose between the hon. Gentleman's views and the views of the hon. Member for the Border Burghs and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddingtonshire. With reference to the past, there was no real grievance, and as regarded the future, there would necessarily have to be a new departure. Therefore, although he could not prevent the hon. Gentleman from moving his reduction, he thought he ought to be satisfied.

*(9.38.) MR. RENSHAW (Renfrewshire, W.) said that, speaking as one deeply interested in Scottish education, he could not contend that Scotland did not receive a very substantial grant from the Imperial Exchequer; and, although no doubt the hon. Gentleman the Member for Mid Lanark believed he had a legitimate grievance, it was more apparent than real. He did not intend to answer any of the statements of the hon. Gentleman,

but he wished to call the attention of the Lord Advocate to a point which he had brought before the Committee on a previous occasion. Under the provisions of the new code, larger grants had been given with a view to encouraging the establishment of higher departments in elementary schools in Scotland. The average grants varied from £3 10s. to £3 15s. per scholar, and there could be no doubt that the effect of establishing there higher departments, which had followed the giving of larger grants, had affected the attendance in the secondary schools. He did not think that that could be doubted. In many countries large sums were given to secondary schools on condition that a certain number of free places were provided for scholars who had passed an examination, had obtained the merit certificate, and had shown a capacity to benefit by secondary education. The secondary schools were to a certain extent competing schools with the higher departments. That being the case, he thought it was only right that the right hon. Gentleman should consider how far the dual system now established was calculated to effect really good work in regard to secondary education in Scotland. The question was one which was seriously exercising the minds of educationists in Scotland at present. If the existing system in Scotland were to be altered, then it seemed to him they would have to consider not only the system under which grants were at present distributed to higher departments in elementary schools, but also the system under which grants were distributed to secondary schools in which there were elementary classes which were entirely attended by fee-paying scholars. As the right hon. Gentleman knew the County Committees had recently been appointed, and they were at present considering how they were to frame schemes for the ensuing three years. These schemes had to be framed with regard to the larger grants to be given to the higher departments in elementary schools; but there could be no doubt that the establishment of free scholarships in the secondary schools was, to some extent, driving out fee-paying scholars from the secondary schools. That was a result which it was not anticipated would follow

from the distribution of the larger sums from Imperial sources. They knew very well that fresh legislation in regard to secondary education was imminent. No long period could elapse before it was dealt with, and, that being the case, he would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to endeavour through the Department to collect information as to what the effect had been of the distribution of the larger funds and the establishment of free scholarships in the secondary schools. He thought it would be regarded by all who knew the work carried on by the secondary schools in the past as unfortunate if an apparent competition was established between the higher departments of the elementary schools and the secondary schools proper. It was possible they were weakening the existing secondary schools; and he would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to bring the matter before the Department with a view to its being carefully considered, and to ascertain whether the expenditure of money in providing free places in secondary schools—the junior departments of which were only attended by fee-paying scholars—unless in very exceptional cases.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee) said that from observation in his own constituency he was very much in agreement with what the hon. Gentleman opposite had just said, and he thought the hon. Gentleman's views were strictly correct. He had not spoken on the English Education Bill, but he had observed day after day discussions on the denominational colleges in England and their future treatment. It appeared to him that there was a way of escape from many of the difficulties which had been discovered with regard to England, and that was by following the example of Scotland in encouraging training departments for teachers in connection with colleges and universities. He had never been much in favour of denominational colleges, even in Scotland, because he regarded them as institutions for the cheap turning out of, in the main, an unsatisfactory class of teacher. The right line to take was to encourage students who proposed to make teaching their profession to pass through the universities. They could not accomplish everything at once, but they might develop the system of King's students in

connection with the ordinary colleges and universities. It was most important that the teachers should be thoroughly competent and efficient; and it was with reference to the training of teachers that they had fallen behind Germany, America, and other countries. He knew from observation that the training department established in connection with the University College in Dundee, although only in existence for a comparatively short time, was attracting great attention, and was drawing to it the best class of young people who intended to make teaching their profession. Fortunately, they had at the head of the Scotch Education Department one of the most enlightened men who could hold that position. They had comparatively few grievances in connection with the Education Department; but, although there were defects to be remedied, and much to be done to bring themselves into line with what was being done abroad, still they were moving gradually and steadily in the right direction. He had no reason to complain of the Department, but rather to commend the work which had been already done. He only desired to strengthen the hands of the Department, and encourage it to pursue the line it was now taking.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said he did not know if the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dundee was present when the question of the training of teachers was previously discussed.

SIR JOHN LENG: No.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: If the hon. Gentleman had been present he thought he would have been quite satisfied, because he said then, and would repeat now, that there was every wish now on the part of the Department to amplify as far as possible the rôle played by the Universities in the training of teachers. He could assure the hon. Gentleman that that view had their entire sympathy. As to the view of his hon. friend the Member for West Renfrew, his hon. friend considered the matter from a wide point of view. He did not doubt that what his hon. friend had said might be a practical disadvantage might be so; but, as had been said, they could not have everything at once. If he had any knowledge of his hon. friend's

Sir John Leng.

educational views, and he thought he had, his hon. friend would be the last man to support the views of the hon. Member for the Border Burghs that there should be free secondary education everywhere. But surely his hon. friend would be the last to say, if there was a really clever boy in a remote district who could not have the advantage of secondary education in that district, that he should not have a chance under any perfect educational system; and he did not know how that chance could be given except by a bursary. In justice to the individual they should have a number of free places. The views of his hon. friend would not be lost sight of in the scheme which they certainly would have to adopt at no distant date.

MR. CALDWELL said that with regard to the 12s. per child the Lord Advocate distinctly stated on a former occasion that there would undoubtedly be a deficiency, which he estimated at £26,000 a year. He confessed that at that time that estimate was entirely erroneous. The Lord Advocate suggested that the probate duty was increased. It was not; but, even supposing it were, England had received her proportion of the increased probate duty, and had applied it to the relief of local rates. If they in Scotland applied their money to education, what had the Imperial Exchequer to say to it? He raised the question to show that whenever Scotch interests were concerned, they invariably met with opposition from Members representing Scottish constituencies on the other side of the House. They were told that it would be absolutely necessary to get £26,000 from the Imperial Exchequer. They had not got a penny of it; and yet it was now contended that it would have been paid had there been a deficiency. The Imperial purse was paying 5s. per child in England and only 3s. per child in Scotland; and the Government had no right to claim that because Scotland paid 2s. extra, the Exchequer was entitled to the benefit of it. That was the point on which he was prepared to take a division, and allow hon. Members opposite to vote against it.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) said that as one of the few English Members who happened to be present, he wished, with great deference, to say a word or two in reply to the hon. Gentleman. He had listened to the speeches of the hon. Gentleman on many previous occasions, and, as far as he could make out, the claim of the hon. Gentleman was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer promised £26,000, if it were required.

MR. CALDWELL said that the Lord Advocate had stated it was required, and was absolutely necessary.

MR. BANBURY said that he had great admiration for the Lord Advocate, but even he could make a mistake. Apparently his right hon. friend had made

a mistake, provided always that the statement of the hon. Gentleman was accurate. The money was to be given for educational purposes. It was not wanted for educational purposes in Scotland; but the hon. Gentleman said that, although it was not wanted for educational purposes, it could be applied to something else. He objected to that. Scottish children were more clever than English children, and no doubt could be educated more cheaply. If the money were required for education in Scotland, it should be given—not otherwise.

(10.6.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 123. (Division List No. 292.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Fenwick, Charles
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir William (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, Dav. Brynmor (Swansea)

Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph

Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Ure, Alexander
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Caldwell and Mr.
George Brown.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George

Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas

Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)

Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid'x)
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Killip, James (Stirlingshire)

Majendie, James A. H.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
 Milvain, Thomas
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthshire)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Devonport)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Rennant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Russell, T. W.

Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Smith, H. C. (Northumb. Tyneside)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M' Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tritten, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ash on und. Lyne)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrand and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original question again proposed.

*MR. WEIR said he wished to direct attention to the condition of the Highland schools. When he brought the question forward on a previous occasion, it was treated in a very cavalier fashion by the Lord Advocate. He was glad to observe that under the new Code the local contribution had been reduced to one-eighth. He could not understand why the Secretary for Scotland could not see his way to remove even the one-eighth as far as the Highland schools were concerned. The Highland districts were too poor to pay it. If the right hon. Gentleman would visit the island of Lewis and the outer Hebrides, he would realise the miserable condition of the people, and that they were too poor to provide even a contribution of one-eighth. When the matter was last before the Committee, he suggested that the Lord Advocate should consult with the Secretary for Scotland and the Department on the subject, and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would now be in a position to tell the Committee that it had been satisfactory settled, and that the one-eighth contribution had been knocked off in the Highland crofting counties. He also

wished to impress on the right hon. Gentleman the necessity for continuing evening continuation schools, and the great advantage conferred by them. In one of the Western districts of Ross-shire, a schoolmaster informed him that thirty young men attended the classes during the winter, so anxious were they to obtain knowledge. The right hon. Gentleman two or three years ago brought in a Bill, with the object of providing better educational facilities in the congested districts of the Highlands, but because a few Members placed a "block" on the Paper the measure was dropped. Surely the Government with its enormous majority could have swept the "block" out of the way. These children had special claims to consideration. They had no chance of getting on in the world unless they were given a fairly good education. If that education was forthcoming, much less would be heard about congested districts and crofters' difficulties. He also desired to call attention to the Report by Mr. Walker, the Chief Inspector of the North of Scotland, in which complaint was made of the unsatisfactory ventilation, imperfect heating of schools, want of shelters for the children, and

the insanitary state of many of the school offices. According to the right hon. Gentleman, that Report had been ignored.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY denied that he said the Report was ignored. On the contrary, he said that every Report of that kind received the consideration of the Board of Education.

*MR. WEIR said that at any rate the right hon. Gentleman treated the matter in a very airy fashion, and referred to the ventilation of the House of Commons. What had that to do with the Highland schools? The right hon. Gentleman had failed to realise the seriousness of these matters, and in the hope of obtaining some more satisfactory information he moved to reduce the Vote by £200.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £707,512, be granted for the said Service."—*(Mr. Weir.)*

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the hon. Member had raised exactly the same points on a former occasion. He complained that under the Continuation Code the Highland schools had not been exempted from all local contributions. When the matter was previously discussed

it was explained to the hon. Member that an exception had been made in their favour, in that their local contribution was reduced to one-eighth, whereas, in other parts it was one-fourth. It was the view of the Education Department that it would not be wise to exempt them entirely from local contribution. That was a point of settled policy, with regard to which the hon. Member moved a reduction of the Vote, and it really seemed to be an abuse of the forms of the House that he should again move a reduction on the same point on the ground that the Board of Education had had a fortnight in which to consider his complaint. With regard to the matter of ventilation and so on, he entirely denied having treated it in a spirit of levity. Every one of these Reports received the most careful consideration of the Department, and were not in any way ignored.

*MR. WEIR again rose to speak.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

(10.33.) Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 127; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 293.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Columb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cubitt, Hon. Henry

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannat, ne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Middlesex)
Hamilton, Marqu. of (Lincolnshire)
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse

Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McKillop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
Morgan, Hon. Fred. (Monmouthshire)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Devonport)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Raudles, John S.
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson

Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Roysd, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Stanley, Lord (Launceston)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.

Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Burke, E. Haviland-
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Cremer, William Randal
 Delany, William
 Doogan, P. C.
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.

Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 London, W.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Govern, T.
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Moss, Samuel
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Runciman, Walter
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan Gower)
 Tomkinson, James
 Whitely, J. H. (Halifax)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Weir and Mr.
 Harmsworth.

(10.43.) Question put accordingly, The Committee divided:—Ayes, 71 :
 “That a sum, not exceeding £707,512, Noes, 135. (Division List No 294.)
 be granted for the said service.”

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Burke, E. Haviland-
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Cremer, William Randal
 Delany, William
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Goddard, Daniel Ford

Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Lough, Thomas
 London, W.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah

M'Govern, T.
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Moss, Samuel
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)

Runciman, Walter
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.

Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, J.A. (Glam'rgan, Gower)
Tomkinson, James
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Weir and Mr. Harma-
worth.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Col. James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch's)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bullard, Sir Harry
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cranborne, Viscount
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Ernest
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
Gedson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Midd'x)
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry)
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.

Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Knowles, Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lloyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh.)
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walth'mst'w)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.)
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Pretymann, Ernest George

Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Col. William George
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY claimed,
"That the original Question be now put."

(10.54.) Question put, "That a sum,
not exceeding £707,712, be granted to His
Majesty, to complete the sum necessary
to defray the charge which will come in
course of payment during the year ending

on the 31st day of March, 1903, for
Public Education in Scotland, and for
Science and Art in Scotland, including a
grant in aid."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 141 ;
Noes, 66. (Division List No. 295.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope

Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)

Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bignold, Arthur

Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Brodick Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Caldwell, James
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (W're'r)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Colomb, Sir John Charles-Ready
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Duglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flower, Ernest
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lon.)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gorst, Right Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (Midd'x.)
 Hamilton Marq. of L'nd'nderry
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hobhouse, Henry, (Somerset, E.)
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)

Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Knowles, Lee-
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macedonia, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (W'hamst'w)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (M'nm'thsh.)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Moss, Samuel
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt, Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratcliff, Lt. F.
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson

Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rigg, Richard
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Scott, Sir S. (Marblehead, W.)
 Seel, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (I. of Wight)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Col. C. E.
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Austruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Burke, E. Haviland-
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Cremer, William Randal
 Delany, William
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gaddard, Daniel Ford
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Helme, Norval Watson

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Lough, Thomas
 London, W.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McGovern, T.
 McKean, John
 McKillop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkeenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James Wicklow, W.
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.

Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Runciman, Walter
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg'n, Gower)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES
 Mr. Weir and Mr. Harms-
 worth.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,316,770, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the salaries and expenses of the Inland Revenue Department."

(11.5.) MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) called attention to the sums paid to members of the Royal Irish Constabulary for the discovery of illicit stills. He suggested that the enormous number of discoveries was due to the reward paid, as in Scotland, where no reward was offered, only four illicit stills were discovered. As not a single hon. Member sitting upon the Irish Benches had been able to come across an illicit still in Ireland, he thought the fact that the Royal Irish Constabulary had discovered so many required some explanation. Before the Estimates next year were presented he hoped the Inland Revenue Department would inquire fully into this matter. The House last year was satisfied with the promise of an inquiry which was then given, and he understood that some inquiries had actually been carried out. The result of those inquiries he had endeavoured to elicit by Question and answer in the House, but he had been unable to obtain the result of those inquiries, and the Return he asked for had been refused. He had asked for information as to who these illicit stills had been discovered by, and whether prosecutions had taken place, but the information was refused. He protested against the way these inquiries were made, and the manner in which the publication of this information had been shirked. He could not call to mind any case in which any punishment had resulted from those inquiries. He understood that 1,826 illicit stills had been discovered, and more than 75 per cent. of them were discovered in one province, and over 600 in one county. It seemed extraordinary that under those circumstances no prosecution had followed. He ventured to assert that the same still did duty in one district repeatedly, in order that the police might obtain the rewards. When the reward was paid, the still was planted out again, and the police went out next morning and seized it, so as to secure payment of another

reward. In the particular district to which he referred, there were 200 "discoveries" of illicit stills, but he was assured that it was the same still in each case. [Laughter.] He was stating what he believed to be a fact. It might seem very funny to hon. Members, but after the exposure which had recently been made in the Sheridan case, this was quite a minor matter. Surely the House would be inclined to believe him, when he said that the same still had done service in 200 or 300 "discoveries" of illicit stills. The Financial Secretary to the Treasury had admitted that such was probably the case.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No; I did not admit that.

MR. O'MARA: Well, you admitted that there was some irregularity in the matter.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, Sir. If any words of mine could be capable of such an interpretation, I can only say that they were used by inadvertence.

MR. O'MARA said he certainly understood the Financial Secretary of the Treasury to admit that there was some irregularity. In any case, the way in which this inquiry had been conducted, and its results, would lead one to suppose that the facts were as he had stated. His information was that the police had planted out this still for the purpose of "discovering" it. He was not aware that 1,826 stills had been discovered in Ireland legitimately. If all these stills had been discovered with worms and all the other paraphernalia surely there would have been more than twenty prosecutions. That seemed a ridiculously small number of prosecutions compared with the number of discoveries. He asked the Financial Secretary of the Treasury whether an inquiry had really taken place, and if so, what irregularity, if any, had been discovered, and what steps had been taken to prevent police men from getting rewards for stills planted out.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said he had learned with absolute amazement within the last hour or two that in the past year there were some 1,800 illicit stills discovered in Ireland. He thought there was some ground for amazement, because he knew, speaking for his own district, and he believed the case was not singular, that illicit distillation, which at one time, undoubtedly, was very common in certain out of the way districts, had almost totally disappeared. In this particular instance there was no doubt peculiar circumstances. The influence of Dr. O'Donnell had been thrown very strongly against the practice, and he had good reason to believe that in that district illicit distillation had entirely disappeared. He should be glad if the Financial Secretary would tell the Committee whether any cases had been found in the diocese of Raphoe. He awaited with very great interest the reply of the hon. Gentleman.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think the hon. Gentleman who has raised the question does not quite recollect what was said a year ago, or what exactly was the nature of the statement I made. He has spoken of the inquiry which I promised as if it were to be some form of public inquiry almost in the nature of a trial or a Committee of Inquiry. He has spoken of the result of this inquiry having been kept secret, and he has given an air of mystery to it which would lead one to suspect the worst. Certainly, I am not going to shelter myself by attacking the conduct of the police. In this matter I am to a certain extent responsible. When I spoke of an inquiry I had nothing in my mind in the nature of an inquiry such as the hon. Member has described. The subject was one which was quite new to me. Hon. Members will remember that I had not been long in my present office, and having had my attention called to the subject, I was struck by the very large number of cases that occurred in Ireland. When I found that the rewards in Ireland appeared to be on a higher scale than in other parts of the United Kingdom I thought that there was good ground for inquiry, and that inquiry I

proposed to make myself with the Board of Inland Revenue and the Constabulary authorities in Ireland. That is the kind of inquiry which I had in my mind. It never entered my head that any hon. Gentleman would expect me to give a formal Report with regard to the confidential communications which passed, and which it would be quite impossible and contrary to practice to lay on the Table of this House. As the result of the inquiries I have made, I have not the least reason to suppose that there are any such malpractices as the hon. Member for South Kilkenny thought it right to suggest exist on a large scale. It is, of course, not possible for me to pledge myself that throughout all the United Kingdom there is not a single officer of the Board of Inland Revenue who has not committed a fault, but what I can say is that nothing has come to my knowledge to lead me to suspect anything of the kind of which the hon. Gentleman spoke. He said, speaking what he honestly believes to be true, that one still—whether originally genuine or not, I know not—was planted out 200 times or so under the direction of the Constabulary, or at their instigation, and that they, on each occasion, sought the reward for its detection. I say, then, that I am entitled to ask the hon. Gentleman to give me the information on which he makes that statement, and to put me in possession of the evidence he must have, and if there be a case of such grave misconduct, I shall do my best to bring the offenders to justice.

MR. O'MARA: The facts I have stated to the Committee are the common talk of the country side.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Are these charges to be made on the common talk of the country side? Surely the hon. Member will see that it is not right for a Member of the House to use his position as a platform from which to disseminate charges of this grave character in this form on the strength of common rumour, which is notoriously a lying jade.

MR. O'MARA: The hon. Gentleman can make inquiries. I have given him the name of the town, and, if he finds the common rumour is wrong—

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN : No, Sir, I will not make inquiries. I do not think it right to make inquiries on these conditions. I assumed, when the hon. Gentleman said he had this information, which he gave to the House, believing it to be true, that he had something more. I think I am entitled to ask the hon. Gentleman for something more, in order that the inquiry may be a serious one and not a farce. If the hon. Gentleman will give me any evidence which, in the opinion of such legal advisers as I should naturally call to my assistance, will show a *prima facie* case for prosecution in a court of law, I shall not be slow to take the action demanded. But I decline to go on rumour, and to invite all the gossip of the country side. I decline to put these men on their trial without some better evidence that there is, at any rate, a *prima facie* case against them. The hon. Member for West Donegal spoke of the surprise which he felt when he heard of the large number of seizures which had taken place. I think he was referring to the figures of a year ago. I ought to say that my opinion is that many of the seizures included in these figures are of a trivial kind. They were seizures of instruments used in illicit distillation, but it would be an abuse of language to call them illicit stills. The figures give the idea that the process of manufacture on an extensive scale had taken place in a large majority of these cases. I have no later information with regard to Ireland at the present moment before me. I have no information as to the number of seizures with regard to the special district of which the hon. Member for West Donegal spoke. I can only join my testimony to his in regard to the work Dr. O'Donnell has done, and express the hope that what he has done may strengthen the hands, and be an encouragement to others in Ireland who are seeking to deal with the evils of drunkenness. What did appear to me to be the case as the result of the inquiry I made was that rewards were paid in cases of seizures which were altogether too trivial to justify any reward at all, that the rewards paid in other cases were too high, and sufficient endeavour was not made when a seizure had taken place to

bring home the ownership of the article seized to the person who was guilty. I think it is of enormous importance to do so. Having these facts in view, the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, with the full assent and approval of the Treasury, proceeded to revise the scale of rewards. We abolished rewards in certain cases altogether. Those are cases of seizures of parts of illicit stills, minor parts and so on. We abolished rewards for seizures of small quantities of liquors; rewards for larger seizures were reduced; and restrictions were placed on the charges that might be incurred for prolonged duty, absence from quarters, and mileage. I speak with a little hesitation, because, after all, I would like to see our new scheme at work for a time before expressing confidently an opinion upon it, but I think what we have done is a movement in the right direction. I am not certain but that after further experience of its working it may be right for me to bring the matter before the Board of Inland Revenue, with the view to proceeding further on the course upon which we have now embarked; but I think this is one of those matters which require rather definite information. I will act on the advice I receive from those more experienced than myself, and who are responsible for the protection of the revenue. I do not think it right to press them to go further than they have gone at the present time. I shall watch the result of that with the view of seeing whether we should carry the experiment further. I hope that the Committee will see that the pledge to give this matter my personal attention has been carried out, and that the inquiry was started by me after discussion in the House. I have had conversations with the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue on the subject. I hope this will be considered by the Committee as on the whole a satisfactory statement for the time, subject to what may be necessary after further experience. Before I sit down, let me repeat in all seriousness what I have said already, that I regard these charges of widespread fraud against a great body of men without names, without details of the crime, without any kind of evidence to go upon, is a most regrettable proceeding. Let

me have the facts which you can readily understand are necessary for the investigation of the case, and I will certainly have it investigated. I believe the Committee will see that it is not the interest of the Government to shield malpractices if they can be proved on the part of anyone connected with the revenue.

(11.30.) MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.) said his hon. friend had made a general accusation. Common rumour might be, as the hon. Gentleman had said, a lying jade, but he had ample means in his power to make inquiry. This question was brought before the House last year. The people had a most damnable suspicion about it. He used the word in the Parliamentary sense. When his hon. friend asked for a Return which would have gone towards probing the matter, the hon. Gentleman refused it. His hon. friend wished to know where the seizures took place, who made them, and the districts in which the prosecutions were held. That information was refused point-blank. There was something behind the scenes. Charges had been made against the Royal Irish Constabulary. Had they been justified within the last week. The Chief Secretary himself had admitted the charges against the Constabulary were well founded. In this case they made no specific charge against any constable or constables. His hon. friend said there were 200 cases, but if there were only 150 or 100 cases why should not an inquiry be made?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: If the hon. Member gives me any information sufficient to show a *prima facie* case I shall inquire, but I will not proceed upon common rumour. It is not a question whether there are 150 or 200 cases. If there is evidence in a single case, I would desire it to be probed to the bottom.

MR. FLYNN said that when his hon. friend took the first step in the direction of probing the matter he was stopped by the hon. Gentleman himself. The Return which his hon. friend asked

ought to have been granted in the public interest. It was not the duty of an Irish Member to become a public prosecutor. It was the business of a Department that was well paid for. It was the business of the Constabulary in conjunction with the Inland Revenue. There were only four cases in Scotland as against 1,800 in Ireland. Did the hon. Gentleman know what an illicit still was? He was pretty sure that the hon. Gentleman did not know. They were very difficult things to establish and keep up. The whisky turned out of these stills was so vile that no one would think of drinking it, and the Inland Revenue laws were so strict that the illicit distillation never paid. There was never more than a case of suspicion, and he pressed on the hon. Gentleman to make a public inquiry. On a former occasion the hon. Gentleman had stated that he would do his best, in conjunction with the Inland Revenue, to make a full inquiry and afterwards to make a full statement on the matter, but he had made no such full statement. All that he had said was that in certain districts in the West illicit distillation prevailed. He knew the wilds of Donegal, and he was not aware of any part of that county where illicit distillation was carried on. He thought they were justified in asking why this £3,000 was asked for, and the Secretary to the Treasury need not have assumed an indignant tone when his hon. friend called attention generally to the practice of the police in discovering illicit stills. The inquiry which was asked for should include the number of prosecutions which had taken place, and the localities where these had occurred.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he considered that it was a gross reflection on the people of Ireland to say that there were 1,800 seizures of illicit stills in Ireland in one year. The House must recollect that this had been going on for a very long time indeed—ever since the Irish Constabulary had been substituted in this detective work for Inland Revenue Police. He did not believe anything of the kind. His hon. friend had made a candid confession that night, that in a large number of those cases there was not the slightest

Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

evidence; and that in others the seizures were trivial, and did not mean the seizure of a still, but only parts of the machinery of distillation. He believed that these figures were piled up under the system of rewards that have been offered. He was glad that his hon. friend had abolished the rewards for unimportant seizures. The Irish Police in the remote country districts had not much to do. There was no country in the world, in fact, in which the police had less to do, and if this duty was imposed upon them and a reward was offered, it was only human nature that they should pile up every year figures of illicit distillation which were wholly misleading. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would give attention to that fact, because it was ridiculous to imagine that there had been 1,800 seizures of illicit stills in Ireland as compared with four in Scotland where whisky was much more prized, and where there were greater temptations than in Ireland to illicit distillation. If the hon. Gentleman would overhaul the whole system he would find that the figures would go down immediately. He made no charge against the Irish Constabulary, but they should not act unless they had absolute proof in their hands, and where proved, the offence of illicit distillation should be pressed relentlessly home. But where there was nothing but common rumour the Government ought not to take action of any kind.

*MR. WEIR said he wished to call attention to the unsatisfactory manner in which the officers of the Inland Revenue discharged their duties in Scotland. For instance, the surveyor of taxes in Inverness was also the assessor for Ross-shire and Inverness-shire, and he took his information in regard to the acreage of deer forests from the landlords and the landlords' factors. It was a physical impossibility for him to ascertain for himself the value and extent of the properties. He had never seen a more shameful document in his life than a Return issued some time ago as to the value of deer forests in Scotland. It was a most unsatisfactory method of conducting business to rely on Returns made by landlords or their

factors, because they were not subject to any penalties for giving inaccurate information. This practice could not work well. The assessor should not be the paid servant of County Councils, as well as the Government. The system is unsatisfactory.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) asked if the hon. Gentleman was in order in stating that a public servant was getting tips.

*MR. WEIR said that this gentleman was remunerated from several sources. In his opinion every Government employee should be employed by the Government exclusively and paid by salary only, not by fees or commissions, the same as some professional men were.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS asked whether the hon. Member was in order in charging him with receiving commissions.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said that if the hon. Gentleman charged the hon. Member with receiving commissions he was out of order.

*MR. WEIR said of course he did not charge the hon. Member with anything of the kind. What he said was that legal gentlemen received commissions, and why should he not refer to that matter? What were commissions but a system of tips?

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said that he must ask the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the Vote under discussion.

MR. WEIR said that, but for the interruptions of the hon. Member, he would have confined himself to the Vote. He wanted the hon. Gentleman to give him some satisfactory reply that this system would cease, and that public servants would not be allowed to undertake work which it was utterly impossible for them to perform.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN admitted that he had promised the hon.

Member for Ross and Cromarty that he would make inquiry into the matter he had referred to. He had consulted the Board of Inland Revenue on the subject, and they told him that the duties of the Inland Revenue at Inverness were by no means too heavy for one man to discharge. He thought that he had communicated that view to the hon. Member by letter. The assessors were appointed by the local authorities, and if the hon. Member asked him to upset the whole of that system, and that no surveyor of taxes should act as assessor, even when appointed by the county authorities, then he thought that that would be a very dangerous task for him to undertake. However, he would convey the objection of the hon. Gentleman to the Lord Advocate to employing an official of the Government in collecting information as to land valuations, but personally he did not think that he would be able to persuade Members for Scotland to accept a proposal that surveyors of taxes should not be allowed to act as assessors when required to do so in special circumstances. .

Mr. WEIR said he thanked the hon. Member for making the promise; but his point was that the assessor, instead of making the inquiry himself, which he knew was impossible, got the information as to acreage and value from the landlords or their factors.

Mr. FLYNN said that in view of the statement of the hon. Gentleman he moved to reduce the Vote by £2,000 as a protest.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,314,770, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Flynn.*)

(11.59.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 56; Noes, 134. (Division List No. 296.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Boland, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Helme, Norval Watson
Jameson, Major J. Eustace

Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Lundon, W.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McGovern, T.
McKean, John
Markham, Arthur Basil
Moss, Samuel
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James

O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, J.A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Weir, James Galloway
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Arehdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George

Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beckett, Ernest William
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer

Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cranborne, Viscount
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'mlets
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby- (Salop
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, W. Raymond (Camba.)
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Midd'x
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nerry
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
 Howard, Jno. (Kent, Faversham
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)

Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H.A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Rigg, Richard
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)

Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

It being after midnight, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported tomorrow; Committee also report progress; to sit again tomorrow.

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN) BILL.

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question. [28th May.]

"That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of five Members, three to be nominated by the House, and two by the Committee of Selection."—(Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'Five,' and insert the word 'Fifteen.'"—(Mr. T. M. Healy.)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'Five' stand part of the Question."

Debate resumed.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Ordered, That the Bill be committed to a Select Committee of nine members, five to be nominated by the House, and four by the Committee of Selection.

Ordered, That all Petitions against the Bill presented three clear days before the meeting of the Committee be referred to the Committee; that the Petitioners praying to be heard by themselves, their counsel, or agents be heard against the Bill, and counsel heard in support of the Bill.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That five be the quorum.—(Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

PUBLIC OFFICES (DUBLIN)
[ADVANCES.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the issue, out of the Consolidated Fund, of such sums, not exceeding in the whole £225,000, as may be required for the purposes of any Act of the present session for the acquisition of certain land in Dublin, and for the erection and equipment of a Royal College of Science, and other buildings for the public service, and to authorise the Treasury, for the purpose of providing for the issue and repayment of such sums, to borrow money by means of terminable annuities for a period not exceeding thirty years, such annuities to be paid out of moneys to be provided by Parliament for the service of the Commissioners, and if those moneys are insufficient, out of the Consolidated Fund."—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Committee report progress; to sit again tomorrow.

YARDLEY CHARITY BILL.

Read a second time, and committed for tomorrow.

PAUPER CHILDREN (IRELAND)
BILL [LORDS].

Considered in Committee.

Mr. WYNDHAM said that this Bill did not go quite so far as the English Act, but it went a long way towards it.

Bill reported, without Amendment; read the third time, and passed.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (IRELAND) BILL,

As amended, considered; Bill read the third time, and passed.

IRISH RECORD COMMISSION.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) rose to move "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to assent to the establishment of an Irish Record Commission and an Irish Historical Manuscripts Commission, for the better and more speedy publication of the Ancient Manuscripts and Records relating to Ireland."

*MR. SPEAKER: This is not a proceeding under a statute. On what ground does the hon. Baronet claim to move what I assume is an opposed Motion?

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said he thought that this was the only manner in which he could raise the question.

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes, if no one objects it can be done.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Government objects.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: Will the hon. Gentleman give me facilities for raising this question?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There can be none.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: We will have the Yardley Charity Bill objected to the next time it comes up.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 16th July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL
BUSINESS.CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY
BILL [LORDS],SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON,
CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS
BILL [LORDS].As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.GLASGOW AND SOUTH WESTERN
RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION
BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

ABERDEEN ACCOUNTANTS ORDER
CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS],GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS, ETC.)
ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].Considered; to be read the third time
upon Friday.FELIXSTOWE AND WALTON IM-
PROVEMENT BILL [LORDS].Reported, with Amendments; Report
to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND
WALES) BILL.Petitions against; from Wakefield;
Cheetham Hill; Selby; Headingley;
Altrincham; and Teignmouth; to lie
upon the Table.EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND
WALES) BILL.Petitions for alteration; from Heigham;
Shrewsbury; Leaton; Gailey with
Hatherton; Westwood Heath; Chertsey;
Bedminster (two); East and West
Hanney; Littleworth; Monmouth; Great
Catworth; Birmingham (four); Bright-
stone; Edingale; Coventry; Bramber;
Marlborough; Bristol; Preshute; Chi-
chester; Coventry; Bicton; Newbury;
Stepney; Darwen (two); Lightcliffe
(two); Crumpsall; Edenfield; Gravesend;
Whitchurch; Toxeth Park; Heaton
Norris; Cheetham Hill; Failsworth
(two); Hulme; Gladestry; Leeds; and
Sherborne; to lie upon the Table.

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[FOURTH SERIES.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND
WALES) BILL.Petitions in favour; from Blackburn
and Mere; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto
[ordered 15th July; *Mr. Austen Chamber-
lain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be
printed. [No. 272.]INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION
(IRELAND).Copy presented, of Additional Rule
made by the Intermediate Education
Board for Ireland, dated 4th July, 1902,
[by Act]; to lie upon the Table.ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 8) BILL [LORDS].Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating
the nature of the Proposals contained
in the Provisional Orders included in
the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders
(No. 8) Bill [Lords]." — (*Mr. Gerald
Balfour*.)GAS AND WATER ORDERS CON-
FIRMATION (NO. 1) BILL [LORDS].Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating
the nature of the proposals contained
in the Provisional Orders included in
the Gas and Water Orders Confirmation
(No. 1) Bill [Lords]." — (*Mr. Gerald
Balfour*.)GAS AND WATER ORDERS CON-
FIRMATION (NO. 2) BILL [LORDS].Copy ordered, "of Memorandum stating
the nature of the proposals contained
in the Provisional Orders included in
the Gas and Water Orders Confirmation
(No. 2) Bill [Lords]." — (*Mr. Gerald
Balfour*.)EAST INDIA (FOREIGN COMPETITION
LOCOMOTIVES).Address for "Return of Correspond-
ence with certain British firms as to the
competition between German and British
manufacturers of railway locomotives."
—(*Mr. Bonar Law*.)

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Return ordered, "showing (1) the
amount raised by means of Police Rate
for the maintenance of the Dublin

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Metropolitan Police for the years ending 31st day of December, 1852, 31st day of December, 1872, 31st day of December, 1892, and 31st day of March, 1902, distinguishing in respect of the last mentioned year the amounts contributed by the city of Dublin from those contributed by the rest of the district; (2) the rateable valuation and population of the Dublin Metropolitan Police district in each such year; (3) the amount received for the same periods from local revenues such as licences, etc.; (4) the amount paid by His Majesty's Treasury for same periods; (5) the strength of the force for the same periods, and specifying the number employed in Government Departments and private service."—(*Mr. Harrington.*)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

**India—Proposed Government School of
Mines and Metallurgy.**

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the number of coal mines working in India, and the provision of the Mines Act of India requiring that all mine managers shall hold certificates showing that they possess certain qualifications, will he consider the expediency of establishing a Government School of Mines and Metallurgy in India, so that natives of India may be afforded opportunities of obtaining such certificates.

(*Answered by the Secretary of State for India.*) The Mines Act merely provides that the Government of India may, if they think fit, prescribe the qualifications of managers of mines. I am not aware that they have made any Rules on the subject, or have prescribed certificates. If they should do so, I am confident that the expediency of providing in India the technical instruction necessary for such certificates will not be overlooked.

**Indian State Railways—Competent
Freight Clerks.**

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will consider the desirability of suggesting to the State

Railway Company, which runs in connection with the Sara Ghat Ferry and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Company, the necessity for employing clerks who are competent to calculate the rates, so that the consignees of goods at Darjeeling may not be overcharged.

(*Answered by the Secretary of State for India.*) The matter is one as to which any complaints should be addressed to the local authorities.

**Lombard Street Telegraph Staff, and the
Abandoned Royal Procession.**

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that certain members of the telegraph staff at the Lombard Street Post Office recently handed in an appeal to the inspector in charge who declined to forward it to the higher authorities; and whether, in view of the Postmaster General's assurances that the staff possess the right of appeal, he will state the reasons for the refusal in this instance.

(*Answered by the Secretary to the Treasury.*) The inspector in charge of the Lombard Street Post Office is well acquainted with the rules respecting appeals on official matters, but he did not consider that the appeal to which the hon. Member refers came within that category. The appeal was from certain juniors of the counter and telegraph staff that accommodation might be provided by the Department for their friends as well as themselves to see the Royal Procession, which it was expected would take place on the 27th ultimo. Places to view the procession had already been provided for the men themselves.

Bath Telegraphists—Dual Increment.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that two telegraphists at Bath, who were granted the dual increment for postal knowledge, were, in consequence, for two years, kept on night duty in the postal branch, and in response to an application to be allowed

to relinquish the increment and return to their positions in the telegraph branch, were informed that their places had been filled up by females, and that they will be transferred to another town; and, seeing that such action is at variance with the practice of the Department in other towns, where officers holding this increment have been allowed to relinquish it, will the Postmaster General cause steps to be taken with a view to safeguarding the position of these men.

(Answered by the Secretary to the Treasury.) The Postmaster General will have inquiry made on this subject and will communicate with the hon. Member.

English and Irish Railways—Conveyance of Live Stock.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Russian Government propose to give a grant to enable refrigerating cars to be placed on the State railways in connection with vessels fitted to convey dead meat and refrigerated produce into Great Britain; and that some colonial and other Governments have granted bounties on subsidised meat exports; and whether he will institute inquiries, and consider the advisability of recommending the Government to grant to the carrying corporations of Great Britain and Ireland an amount sufficient to improve the carriage of live stock within the three kingdoms, so as to prevent damage and delay.

(Answered by the President of the Board of Trade.) As regards the first paragraph, I am aware that the matter referred to has been discussed in Russia, but I have no official information as to any definite proposal of the Russian Government. The answer to the second paragraph is in the affirmative. I see no reason for recommending a grant for the purpose named in the last paragraph.

India—Coronation Durbar at Delhi.

MR. SCOTT - MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that the expenses of the recent entertainment at the India Office

is to be paid for out of the funds of India, he is prepared to make a grant towards the expenses of the Coronation Durbar to be held at Delhi next January.

(Answered by Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.) No.

Scottish Congested Districts—Fishermen's Dwellings in Lewis.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state on what terms the Congested Districts Board are now prepared to feu land near Stornoway for fishermen's dwellings, and will he say how much land, if any, has been acquired by the Board for this purpose.

(Answered by the Lord Advocate.) The Board have not acquired any land in Lewis, but Major Matheson recently proposed to the Congested Districts Board that the ground at Boulnacraig, Stornoway, extending to about seven acres, should be feued in twenty-nine lots for fishermen's dwellings on the same conditions as in the previous offer by the Board (published in Appendix, No. VIII., of their Second Report for 1899-1900), except that instead of the offer being made to cottar fishermen it should be extended so as to include fishermen or the sons of fishermen in Lewis, living entirely or mainly by fishing. The offer was made public on the 16th of last month.

Orange Procession at Warrenpoint, County Down.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that many of the Orange processionists at Warrenpoint, County Down, on Saturday, discharged firearms along the line of route, that two women were shot, and that at least two civilians, together with three constables, had narrow escapes, and will he say whether it is intended to take any, and if so, what steps to prevent a recurrence of such incidents arising from the carrying of firearms.

(Answered by the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.) A number of shots were fired by the excursionists. Two women were wounded at Newry. One arrest has been made. The question of discharging firearms from railway trains on the occasion of party excursions is engaging consideration.

Infectious Disease Notification and Prevention Acts.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of introducing a Bill this Session to assimilate the Law regarding The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1869, and The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, in Ireland and Great Britain, so as to make notification compulsory by urban or rural sanitary authorities in Ireland.

(Answered by the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.) A Bill has been drafted on the lines suggested by the Question. I am prepared to bring it in, but could not undertake to find time for any but the briefest discussion.

Volunteers—Ammunition for Rifle Practice.

MR. FREEMAN-THOMAS (Hastings): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that ammunition, dated 1897, is being issued for rifle practice to certain volunteer regiments; and, in view of the character of this ammunition, which makes accurate shooting impossible, will he take steps to insure that such ammunition is not issued in future.

(Answered by the Secretary of State for War.) No complaint has been received of any rifle ammunition. A complaint was received of some Morris tube ammunition, and this is being investigated.

South Africa—Repatriation of Boer Prisoners.

MR. HENRY J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): To ask the Secretary of State for War if Boer prisoners of war, ready to take the oath of allegiance, and prepared to pay their own expenses, may immediately return to South Africa, or proceed to Europe to meet their families.

(Answered by the Secretary of State for War.) Burghers of the late Republics who are willing to take the oath of allegiance, and who possess means of subsistence, or can be assured of it, will be allowed to proceed to South Africa at

their own expense, subject to the concurrence of the High Commissioner and the Officer in charge of the camp in which they have been confined. They may go elsewhere under similar conditions, but they forfeit all claim to repatriation at the expense of His Majesty's Government. If they leave without a declaration of allegiance, they will not be allowed to return to South Africa.

Maharajah of Panna.

MR. WEIR: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will say when an opportunity will be given for ascertaining whether the House desires the publication of Papers relative to the recent disposition of the Maharajah of Panna.

(Answered by the First Lord of the Treasury.) I am afraid I can add nothing to the answer the hon. Gentleman has received on this subject from the Secretary of State for India.

Business of the House—Supply Arrangements.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury, in view of the fact that, as at present arranged, not more than one day is to be given to the discussion of the salary of the Secretary of State for War, if he will afford the House further opportunity for discussion of the following military questions, which have been before the public owing to recent developments, viz., the Army Medical Department, the case of General Buller, the breach of discipline at Royal Military College, Report on education of officers, and the Courts of Inquiry into Remount and Canteen Departments.

(Answered by the First Lord of the Treasury.) I think the hon. Gentleman will find that the Votes on the Paper tomorrow embrace the various subjects enumerated in the Question, and I should hope that this opportunity will afford adequate time for their discussion.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can see his way to afford an opportunity for discussing the Vote for the Customs Establishment during the remaining days allotted to Supply.

(Answered by the First Lord of the Treasury.) I am afraid I can give no definite assurance that a day can be assigned to this Vote; but perhaps, before Supply is closed, an opportunity may be found for its discussion.

(2.15.) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Remount Scandals—Action against Major Studdert.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the settlement of the action against Major C. W. Studdert by a money payment was made with the consent of the prosecution; if so, whether such consent was given with the sanction of His Majesty's Government; whether the Papers in this case were laid before the Court of Inquiry appointed to inquire into the action of the Remount Department; and whether he will cause the Papers to be published.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper—

MR. HARRIS (Tynemouth): To ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the Solicitor General for Ireland, in consideration of a payment of £2,000 and certain costs, has agreed to abandon further legal proceedings against Major C. W. Studdert and others for fraudulent breach of contract in connection with the purchase of remounts, will he say what was the sum that Major Studdert was estimated to have fraudulently received; and whether the War Office gave its consent to this settlement.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if he will state the reason for terminating the proceedings in the action by the War Office for breach of contract, in reference to the purchase of horses in Ireland, after the hearing of the evidence of the Inspector General of Remounts and other War Office witnesses; and whether any further proceedings are contemplated by Government.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): My right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War promised to undertake this.

MR. BRODRICK was not yet in his place, and there was a pause in the proceedings.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Who is wasting time now?

*MR. SPEAKER: I must ask the hon. Member for South Donegal not to interrupt the business, and not to make remarks when there is no business before the House.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I was very wrong, but I was only calling the attention of the public, Sir, to the way Ministers behave themselves.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is an orderly and a disorderly way of doing that, and the hon. Member too frequently adopts the disorderly method.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: It is very effective, Sir.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford), having now entered the House, said, I regret to say that I have not yet received a full Report from the Solicitor General on this case, and, therefore, it is not possible for me to give an opinion upon it. The case only deals with the question of damages in connection with 323 horses, and the War Office is only responsible for following the advice of their legal adviser in regard to the termination of the action. I am not prepared to enter upon any of the subsidiary questions which have been asked, but I have no reason to suppose that any pledge has been given that will be a bar to any further proceedings.

Subsequently,

MR. McKENNA repeated his Question.

MR. BRODRICK: The answer to this Question is covered by what I have already stated.

MR. McKENNA: Will the right hon. Gentleman ask the Court of Inquiry for the Papers?

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir; certainly not. I have no power to interfere with any proceedings of the Court of Inquiry. It takes its own action and calls its own witnesses, and I have no right to make any inquiry.

Settlement of Volunteers in South Africa.

SIR GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea, Town): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any of the active service Volunteers who have served in South Africa will be permitted, if they so desire, to obtain their discharge and remain in South Africa when their regiments are ordered home.

MR. BRODRICK: The answer is in the affirmative.

China—Medals for Civilian Defenders of the Legations.

COLONEL STOPFORD-SACKVILLE (Northamptonshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the medal and clasp for Defence of Legations given to the Naval and Military forces who took part in the late operations in China will likewise be granted to those civilian volunteers whose services were brought by Sir C. MacDonald to the notice of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

MR. BRODRICK: The medal and clasp will be granted to those of British nationality who took part in the defence of the Legations.

Governor-General of India.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, with reference to the recent Order conferring additional powers on the Governor-General of India in Council, whether he will state in what territories outside British India these powers will be operative, over what persons the jurisdiction will be exercised, and the circumstances which have rendered this measure necessary.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The territories outside British India in which the Order operates, or may hereafter operate, are stated in Article 2 of the Order of the 11th of June,

1902. The persons affected are British subjects and other persons in respect of whom the Governor-General in Council has jurisdiction by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance, and other lawful means. The consideration which led to the issue of the Order was that the Secretary of State was advised that it would, from a legal point of view, be more convenient to place the foreign jurisdiction exercised by the Governor-General in Council upon the basis of Imperial legislation and statutory orders.

MR. CAINE: Will the noble Lord kindly place a copy of the Minute in the Library of the House?

LORD G. HAMILTON: Certainly.

Liquor Traffic in Indian Tea Areas.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if his attention has been called to the Memorandum submitted to the Chief Commissioner of Assam by the Hon. James Buckingham, C.I.E., on the effect on coolies on Assam tea gardens from the number of liquor shops established by the Government throughout the tea area of that State, to the complaints with regard to liquor shops from owners of tea gardens in Darjeeling and other tea areas of the Bengal Presidency, and to the statement on the same subject of Surgeon-General de Renzy at the annual meeting of the Jokai Assam Tea Company at Winchester House on the 8th instant, that it was impossible to get a proper supply of labour, or to keep it efficient when obtained, in consequence of these liquor shops; and, if so, will he consider the advisability of the immediate suppression of all liquor shops in the tea-growing areas of Bengal and Assam.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I am aware that a Memorandum offering suggestions for the improvement of the liquor-excise system of the province has recently been submitted by the Assam Tea Association to the Chief Commissioner. These suggestions are certain to receive the fullest consideration from him, and I do not propose at present to issue any instructions in the matter. I am not aware that any similar representations or suggestions have been recently made

by the Bengal tea planters, nor have I seen the report of the company meeting referred to ; but I know that questions relating to the prevention of drunkenness among the tea garden coolies in that province have been frequently before the local Government.

Indian Budget.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, in accordance with private notice, whether it is true, as stated in the newspapers, that the Indian Budget will not be taken until the Autumn sitting of the House.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Yes. I propose to take the Indian Budget in the Autumn, as I believe it will be the most convenient time.

Underground Telegraph Wires to the North.

SIR JOHN LENG (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the conclusion of the war in South Africa and the diminished demands upon the Exchequer, he can see his way to increase the allowance made in the Estimates for the extension of underground telegraphic wires to the North of England and Scotland, with the view of preventing the interruption of telegraphic communication in winter with Edinburgh, Glasgow, and other large centres of population in Scotland.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): A considerable sum is provided in this year's Estimates for the extension of underground telegraphic wires to the North, and I do not think it can be increased on account of the close of the war. I have already stated that savings from that cause should go to the reduction of the debt incurred for the war.

Maize Duty Rebate.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, in view of the fact that the collectors of Customs allege they are awaiting instructions in respect to the refunding of the amount of the maize duty which is repayable to those importers who have already paid the full duty on stocks which they are selling on the lower basis

of the reduced duty since the date fixed for the reduction, whether he will explain what is the cause of the delay in issuing these instructions.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Proper instructions have been given to the collectors of Customs, and remissions of excess duty will be made as soon as the Finance Bill has become law, which I hope will be before the end of this week.

MR. FLYNN: When were the instructions given to the collectors—was it recently?

SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Of course it was recently. The alteration was made in the law not very long ago.

Bideford Postman's Grievance.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that Oliver Sluman, an unestablished postman of Bideford, who has recently received notice to leave, has served the Post Office for thirty-two years, that for twenty years he received wages amounting to 10s. per week, and for twelve years wages amounting to 16s. per week; and whether, seeing that this man is now seventy-two years of age, he will consider the advisability of granting him a pension or a gratuity.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Sluman is not eligible for pension, but inquiry will be made as to whether he is eligible for the award of a compassionate gratuity on retirement.

Orange Disturbance at Tullyhogue.

MR. DOOGAN (Tyrone, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it has come to his knowledge that, after the attack on the Very Reverend Canon Rice, Cookstown, and the three nuns, on the Donagherry Road, they were encountered nearer to Tullyhogue by a riotous crowd; and, seeing that Orange crowds assemble on this road, which is the only direct road from Cookstown to Stewartstown and Coalisland, and that Roman Catholics have often been attacked in that neighbourhood, he will

consider the advisability of having a police barrack established in Tullyhogue; and whether he will cause further inquiries to be made with a view to the identification and punishment of the ringleaders of the second mob.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I think the facts have been very much exaggerated in this matter. It has already been stated that one stone was thrown at the carriage containing the reverend gentleman, by a drunken person whom the police hope to make amenable. Some booing occurred near Tullyhogue, but no riotous crowd was assembled on the road. It is not the fact, as alleged, that Roman Catholics have been attacked in this neighbourhood, which is peaceable. No necessity exists for placing a police barrack at Tullyhogue, and there is no need for further inquiry.

Irish Prison Warders.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down Co., S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many police pensioners are employed as warders in Irish prisons; whether, before qualifying for pensions, they were declared unfit for further service in the police; whether it is intended to make any further appointments from the same class; and whether the Prisons Board intend to adopt a system of examinations for promotions in the prison service.

MR. WYNDHAM: This information cannot be procured for a day or two. Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat the Question on Friday.

Queen Anne's Bounty.

MR. CAINE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, seeing that the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty have stated that a thorough examination of the Ecclesiastical Commission is necessary before any question of its amalgamation with Queen Anne's Bounty can be entertained the Queen Anne's Bounty Bill will be proceeded with before such an inquiry into the constitution, powers and working of the Ecclesiastical Commission has taken place.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon) (for Mr. A. J. BALFOUR): Since the passing of the resolution of the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty as to the proposed amalgamation with the Ecclesiastical Commission, a Joint Committee of both Houses has inquired into all the circumstances, and a Bill embodying their recommendations has been introduced. The Government do not think that any further inquiry is necessary, nor has it been asked for by the Governors.

Ben Nevis Observatory.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the Ben Nevis Observatory must soon be closed, unless it can receive further pecuniary assistance; and whether, in the interest of science, he will enable this valuable national institution to continue its important work.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I answered this Question in some detail three years ago,† and I adhere to the answer I then gave, though I fear it may not be satisfactory to the hon. Gentleman. The grant referred to has been placed in the hands of the Council of the Meteorological Society and the Government do not determine how the grant is to be distributed among the different institutions carrying on investigations. That is left to the Society, and the Society must be responsible.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): May I ask when the Vote which will give an opportunity for discussing this matter will be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot answer that straight off.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I hope there will be at least an opportunity given for the Scottish Members interested in scientific observations to discuss the question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will look into that.

† See (4) *Debates*, lxxv., 504, 855, 1303.

Debates on the Estimates.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, having regard to the limited opportunities afforded this session under the Resolution regulating the consideration of Supply for the discussion of Army Estimates, he will state whether he proposes to make that Resolution a Standing Order; and, if so, on what day he intends to make a Motion to that effect.

MR. RITCHIE: My right hon. friend does not intend to take the Resolution before the adjournment. He does not know what his noble friend means by "limited opportunities" during this session.

LORD HUGH CECIL: Will the First Lord give an opportunity for the discussion of Vote 11 of the Army Estimates? When I spoke of "limited opportunities," I meant that we had not been allowed to discuss several important matters on the Army Vote.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not give up the hope of an opportunity being found for the discussion of Vote 11, although the time for discussing the Estimates is running rather short. But I cannot give any promise or pledge on the subject.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE:** What Supply will be taken at the evening sitting on Thursday?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think it would be best to go on with the Army Estimates on Thursday. I cannot state what Army Vote will be taken.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Eighth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Fourth Report brought up, and read; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 273.]

POLICE (SUPERANNUATION) BILL.

"To amend The Police Act, 1890, with respect to Superannuations," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings, under Standing

Order No. 31; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 277.]

POLICE EXPENSES BILL,

"To amend the law relating to Expenses of Police Authorities," presented by Mr. Jesse Collings, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 278.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.

Clause 6:—

Another Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 35, after the word 'secular,' to insert the words 'and physical.'"—(Mr. Priestley.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(2.35.) **THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY** (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.) said he entirely agreed with the hon. Member that the question of physical training was second only, if it were second in some cases, to the question of intellectual training. We were rather inclined, by long and not very wise tradition, to confine the word "education" within too narrow limits, and to suppose that it only affected the moral and intellectual side of life, and of that side certain relatively narrow intellectual interests. Therefore, he did not quarrel with the object the hon. Gentleman had in view. The hon. Gentleman wished that, in addition to the ordinary scholastic training, there should be some attention given to the physical training of the scholars. But would that object, excellent though it were, be properly carried out by the Amendment? Was there a distinction between "secular," which was in the Clause, and "physical," which the hon. Gentleman proposed to add? "Secular," in

common parlance, and certainly as used in the Bill, was opposed not to physical, but to religious education. If the hon. Gentleman were right—as he believed he was—in thinking that physical training ought in many cases to be made an essential part of the general training, unconnected with the religion of the pupils, it would come under the general term “secular.” If they added “physical,” why not add each of the different items which went to make up the secular side of education—such as Latin, for example? It was impossible to include in the Clause all the items which went to make up secular education, and he held, therefore, that the general word “secular” was sufficient. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would be content, in the circumstances, with having called attention to this important element of general education, without pressing his Amendment to a division.

MR. PRIESTLEY (Grantham) said that after the sympathetic speech of the Prime Minister there was no course open to him but to withdraw his Amendment. He highly valued the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman that this portion of education in public elementary schools was both essential and valuable, and he only hoped the Government would formulate a scheme making physical education compulsory in the elementary schools. He believed hon. Members generally were in entire sympathy with that view.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*THE CHAIRMAN ruled out of order the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Bolton, which was, after the word “secular” to insert the words “and undenominational.”

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said they were all agreed that the education authority should have control over all secular teaching, whether in denominational or other schools, and that the control of religious teaching should be left to denominational authorities. The third point was as to the control of religious teaching in undenominational schools, and he maintained that the Clause as it stood made no provision for

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

that. It merely provided that the local education authority should, throughout its area, have the powers and duties exercised by School Attendance Committees under the Acts of 1870 and 1900. That, if it stood by itself, would meet the difficulty, no doubt; but words had been added making it responsible for “secular” instruction in public elementary schools, whether provided by it or not. That created some doubt as to who was to be responsible for religious education in schools not provided by the authority.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member evidently wishes to amend the words “whether provided by them or not.” The question of undenominational religious teaching has already been decided.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) said that he would raise the points embodied in the Amendments standing next in his name on a subsequent part of the Clause.

MR. DUNCAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Otley) moved an Amendment the object of which was, he said, to make it clear that the local education authority should have control of all secular instruction, whether in voluntary or denominational schools.

Amendment proposed—

“In Clause 6, page 2, line 36, to leave out ‘whether’ and insert ‘not.’”—(*Mr. Duncan.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the question involved was one of drafting or construction, rather than of principle. They were all agreed that the local education authority should have absolute control over secular and religious training in the schools they themselves provided, and that they should have absolute control over secular training in the voluntary schools. The only question was as to how the matter could be most clearly put. Personally, he would have thought the meaning was obviously clear, but as he gathered from the debate the other night that there was some difference of opinion, and as the Amendment would make it clearer, he had no objection to accepting it.

Amendment agreed to.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) moved to omit the last words of the Clause, which provided that School Boards and School Attendance

Committees should be abolished. He did not think that they ought to decide absolutely on the abolition of School Boards. Practically, of course, they had been abolished, so far as their control over education was concerned, but no final decision should be come to until they came to the Clause which would enable them to be retained purely as committees of management. His contention was that, although the County Council might be able to direct and control education generally within its area, to decide on the amount of money to be expended on education, to give general directions for education, and organise it in a general way, it was quite impossible for a body of that kind actually to manage individual schools. It was admitted that the Clause gave power to County Councils to inspect schools, but there was a great difference between that and managing them. In a county with a population of 200,000 or 300,000, and a very large area, the County Council could not do more than provide a general education scheme, and it would find great difficulty in appointing committees of management, for it would not possess the necessary local knowledge to enable it to select the best men to manage the schools. All that he asked the First Lord of the Treasury to do was to refrain from prejudicing the question whether School Boards should not be retained in some districts purely for the purposes of management. The omission of these words would give the Committee an opportunity, when they came to the next Clause, dealing with the management of schools, to discuss the propriety of retaining School Boards as the managers of schools.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 36, to leave out the words 'and School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall be abolished in that area.'—
(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall' stand part of the Clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought that the object the hon. Gentleman had in view was an important object, and one

the Committee might well discuss. If he understood the hon. Gentleman rightly, he only desired to deal with the counties, and in the counties the hon. Gentleman desired to keep the School Boards in existence, while depriving them of any rights under the Act of 1870—to leave them as pale and ineffectual ghosts, endowed with a kind of transitory life by the County Council, if it should so please. The first observation he would make was that the hon. Gentleman proposed to create, or rather to leave in existence, a very cumbrous machinery to carry out a very small object. Even those who favoured the School Board system thought that the whole apparatus of the cumulative vote, and the rest of it, threw a great deal of cost and trouble on small districts. The cost of a contested election in these small areas bore a most absurd and abnormal proportion to the total expenditure of the School Board, and he did think it would be very inadvisable to make it a part of the new machinery. He would also point out that even now the public interest in School Board elections was not very great as compared with that taken in other elections. What would it be when those bodies were deprived of all autonomy and dignity, and left as the mere servants of the County Council? Though he did not think the Committee ought to accept the Amendment, he agreed that it was worth considering in the next clause whether something could not be devised which would put the locality in some touch with the central authority. They had already decided, by the earlier words of the Clause, to make the County Council wholly responsible for educational matters, and he thought that to have another elective body in the district, even though it would be subordinate to the County Council, would be to invite some kind of collision between the two bodies.

(3.0.) MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) was very glad to hear the right hon. Gentleman's last words, which contained a promise of better things to come; but he would have been glad if the right hon. Gentleman could have indicated a little more distinctly what he intended to do, because it would have largely saved their labour on the Bill. He need not answer the

other arguments of the right hon. Gentleman, which, though they might have some force, had not the force of the last argument of the right hon. Gentleman. They attached to this element of local popular control a great deal of importance, and any proposal of that kind would be of the greatest value.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) thought the right hon. Gentleman had given a negative indication as to his intention, which was somewhat unfortunate.

MR. BRYCE dissented.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that was certainly what he understood. He would quote the words of the right hon. Gentleman—

“An elective body might come into conflict with the County Council.”

He thought it was most unfortunate, because the right hon. Gentleman had almost pledged himself against the elective element by limiting himself in that way.

MR. BRYCE said of course if those words were used they were quite open to his right hon. friend's criticism. He understood the argument of the right hon. Gentleman was only directed against School Boards.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR explained that what he was objecting to was the continuation in the area of a body wholly elective, with a great tradition behind it, going back to 1870, and having had powers of which they were now deprived, but which they would have a natural instinct to resume. He had pointed out that there might be friction between the elective body and the body they all desired to see supreme in relation to education, namely, the County Council. He did not wish to give any special pledge, but what was passing through his mind was that, in addition to the managers nominated by the County Council, there should be a certain proportion elected by the Parish Councils.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE expressed his satisfaction at having elicited that expression of opinion, which was a great

Mr. Bryce.

improvement on what the right hon. Gentleman had first said. It was a considerable concession, especially if the proportion of the elected element was a large one. He thought the whole ought to be elected, but the matter would have an important bearing on the Clause. The view that the right hon. Gentleman took in his first speech, that there might be conflict of authority, was not borne out by their experience of the County Councils, Parish Councils, and District Councils, all of which dealt with the same class of duties. The line between them had been strictly maintained, and they had all done good work for the counties. What they had in view was the importance of keeping as managers of the schools in the School Board districts the men who had learnt their work and had done it in the past, and who had the confidence of the ratepayers. The position offered to them under this Bill was the management of one school, when, under the School Board, they had controlled twenty or thirty; and it was not reasonable to suppose that they would accept such a position. What they desired was to see a larger scope of duty given to these men under this Bill.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said he heard what fell from the right hon. Gentleman with the greatest pleasure, because he thought the concession would be most valuable, not only from the point of view of persons immediately concerned, but also from another point of view altogether. The bringing of the Parish Councils into line was a great concession, because in many cases Parish Councils were almost dying of inanition for want of work to do. Frequently the same persons who served on the Parish Councils, also served on the School Board, and the result was that the two elections injured the value of both in the eyes of the electors. He hoped the Government would consider whether, where the area was of sufficient size, and the School Board was not working well, the Parish Councils could not be substituted for it.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) thought the noble Lord who had just spoken had given good reason why

the School Boards should not be retained. This Amendment, which had been supported by such high authority, would, if accepted, keep in existence an expensive body, for no object which could not be obtained by other means. He ventured to think, however much regard they might have for the work the School Boards had done in the past, it would be very unwise, now that the Committee had determined to abolish them, to press an Amendment for the purpose of keeping them in existence for such a purpose as this. Did any hon. Member think it would be desirable to keep the Attendance Committee in existence merely for the purpose of managing a school? He welcomed the suggestion made by the First Lord, and thought the Committee could not possibly come to a decision which would keep on the expensive machinery of the School Board for such an inadequate purpose.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire) was of opinion that the question for the Committee to consider was whether the advantages outweighed the disadvantages. He thought the advantages of retaining the School Boards as managers of the schools were so plain as to admit of no doubt as to the desirability of their being retained. He traversed the suggestion that there was no interest taken in the election of the School Boards. In the counties he was acquainted with, great interest was taken in the elections, and that was only natural, because the persons who sent their children to the schools were interested in seeing them properly managed. The Welsh system afforded a clear example of subordinate bodies working in complete harmony with the higher bodies. Every intermediate school in Wales was managed on the spot by a local committee, which was subordinate, in all important matters, to the county governing body, but, so far as he knew, there were no cases in which friction had arisen between the two. The county governing bodies dictated the educational policy, but the whole of the details of the actual working were, and must necessarily be, left to the people on the spot. Undoubtedly the School Attendance Committees would have to be got rid of, but that was a comparatively small matter, and he should support the Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) understood that hon. Gentlemen opposite did not like to part with the School Boards and the School Attendance Committees until they knew what were to take their place. That matter was dealt with in the next Clause, and he understood that the First Lord was prepared to consider Amendments extending or modifying that Clause, which, as it stood, was undoubtedly somewhat sketchy. There was a three-fold object in constituting these subordinate bodies: first, to relieve the local authority of the burden of detail in the management of the schools; secondly, to enlist local interest by imparting some measure of local representation to these Committees; and thirdly, to utilize as far as possible the accumulated experience of School Boards. The discussion on those points ought really to come on Clause 7, and he suggested that instead of discussing mere hypotheses on the present Clause as to the intentions of the Government, they should finish with Clause 6, and proceed with the Clause which really dealt with these matters.

MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea, District) said the right hon. Gentleman opposite was correct in his main argument, but before the Committee proceeded further they ought to know what was to be the precise effect of the abolition of School Boards. He did not wish to go into details with regard to the Welsh system; but nobody had pointed out how serious was the disorganisation which was about to take place in consequence of the passing of this Bill. They had, first of all, the University of Wales, governed in the last resort by the University Court, which was partly a nominated and partly a representative body. They had besides three national colleges and also a number of secondary schools established under the intermediate Act of 1889, besides the ordinary public elementary schools under the Act of 1870 and the amending Acts. He desired to ask the Prime Minister whether he had considered the Charter of the three national colleges and the effect of the adoption of Clause 6 in relation thereto. They were State-aided colleges, but they had also attracted a large amount of private subscriptions. In the case of the

MR. MOSS (Denbighshire, E.) said that if this Clause passed the system of secondary education would be seriously interfered with. In Devonshire, for instance, they had twenty-six or thirty members on the local governing body appointed directly by the School Boards in the county. He did not know how it was proposed, in the event of this Clause passing, to remodel the whole system in Wales. He supported this Amendment on general grounds, and he took it to be part of the scheme of this Bill that the County Council was not directly managing any of these schools. If that was so, the Bill contemplated the delegation of powers to some properly elected body. It was said that the School Boards in the country districts were far too small for efficient management. That might be so, but surely the same argument would apply to the delegation of powers by the local education authority to the Parish Council, which would certainly not be larger than the School Board. If this Clause were allowed to stand, subject to the Amendment, he failed to see how the general scheme would be affected thereby. It was suggested that they were perpetuating a body which would be cumbrous and expensive to the electors, but there was no reason why the general scheme should be affected by the proposal.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he had a right to complain that the hon. Member for Camberwell had not taken the trouble to understand the Amendment. The hon. Member said the Amendment was a proposal to set up a School Board for every district, although the district might only have twenty-five inhabitants. If he had proposed an Amendment of that sort it would have been perfectly right to amend it. That was not the Amendment he proposed. The only Amendment he proposed at present was one which would not prejudice the question as to whether under certain circumstances School Boards should be retained as Committees of Management. His hon. friend chose to make an attack upon Welsh School Boards. He had more experience of Wales than the hon. Member, and had therefore more right to speak of Welsh educational matters.

The hon. Member had attacked the little School Boards in Wales. It was true that some of them were not efficient, but did his hon. friend mean to say that the managers of voluntary schools in those districts did their work better than the little School Boards? His experience was that the board schools in the rural districts were healthier, cleaner and better equipped than the voluntary schools, and it would interest his hon. friend to know that they paid the teachers better. If an attack was to be made on the little School Boards, why should the voluntary school managers always escape? He hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would not make up his mind definitely at this point that the majority of the members of the Committee of Management must be appointed by the education authority. He thought it was much more important that the majority should be selected by some body—it might be the Parish Council—who knew the best men in the district. If the County Council had to select the managers in any district, not knowing the men, they must leave it entirely to the caprice or personal prejudice of one man who knew the district. He did not think that was desirable.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said he should have preferred to say what he had to say in moving the rejection of the Clause, but the discussion had taken an interesting turn, and the scope of the Amendment had been largely misinterpreted, and he should like to offer one or two words now. His intention in putting the Amendment on the Paper was purely negative. He simply wished to preserve at this stage freedom of judgment to the House as to the ultimate form of local authority which should be subordinated to the central authority. It seemed to him that the words "and School Boards and School Attendance Committees shall be abolished in that area," were unnecessary, and that the Clause might very well terminate with the words "whether provided by them or not." He protested against the abolition of the School Boards, believing that it was a serious blunder to destroy, instead of develop, *ad hoc* authorities for education. But they were placed in the position of

doing the best they could with the Bill. It was essential that there should be some form of local autonomy. He had heard with some satisfaction what had been said by the First Lord of the Treasury as to the management of schools. He would remind the Committee that an enormous and important alteration had been made in Clause 3 by the acceptance of the proposal of the hon. Member for East Somersetshire. By that concession the local authorities of a multitude of small areas had been given almost complete autonomy as regards the provision of education other than elementary. He himself regarded that concession as imperfect and unsatisfactory in some ways, and thought some form of co-ordination should be provided, although he voted for it on the ground of endeavouring to obtain so far as he could an equivalent for the local autonomy given in the School Board. The Bill was a bad Bill, but its only merit was the principle, or rather the profession, that it would co-ordinate all authorities and all schools under a central authority. But he held that what was done in regard to secondary education logically carried with it as a corollary the concession of some form of local autonomy with regard to elementary education also under this Bill. If they could get that in the form of an *ad hoc* authority it would be advisable.

(4.0.) MR. EDWARDS (Radnor) said he desired to support the Amendment because, as he understood it, it left the question of the constitution of the body which would manage the schools to the final decision of Clause 7. The hon. Member for Oxford University asked that they should get on to Clause 7 and then discuss the question. He should be very glad to follow that advice, if the First Lord first adopted this Amendment. He could not agree with the attack which had been made by the hon. Member for North Camberwell upon the small Welsh School Boards, and the scorn which he poured upon them and all their works. It was possible that some small School Boards had done bad work, but the hon. Member was not right in locating them in Wales. He could only say that the school of the small School Boards in Wales had earned

a better grant than the voluntary schools. In his own county the voluntary schools only earned £1 4s. 7d. per child, while the School Board schools so much derided by the hon. Member for Camberwell had earned £1 7s. 8d. per child.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said that this was the last opportunity the House of Commons would have of making an effective protest against the abolition of the School Boards, and it was right that on an occasion of that kind hon. Members, whether they had the misfortune to be Members for Wales or for England, should have the right to press their opinions. He thought before this Act was consummated they should express their gratitude to the men who during the past thirty years had rendered such self-sacrificing services to education. They had done splendid work, which could never be obliterated or forgotten in the future. When the country was informed that it was the intention of the Government to obliterate the School Boards there was a considerable outcry against it, but they were assured that the Members of the School Boards would be continued on the School Management Committees as delegates of the local education authority. Of course that might be done for the next year or two, but they were not legislating for the next year or two, but for a very considerable period, and having regard to that, he thought it was only right, as his hon. friend proposed, that they should make some permanent arrangement for the local management of the schools, hitherto under the management of the School Boards. Unless that were done the management of those schools, he feared, would be hereafter of a thoroughly unrepresentative character. Even if a certain number of representative persons were placed on the Committees, the result would be that there would be a great diminution in that direct interest taken by the members, who heretofore had felt a direct responsibility to the people in regard to the schools which they had managed. They had attained, as he understood, the object with which the Government set out—viz., to prevent overlapping; but if the machinery of the School Boards was

preserved they should still be able to prevent anything in the shape of overlapping. The First Lord had expressed some apprehension as to the conflict which might arise between the members of the School Boards and the managers of the local education authority, but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that so far as the experience of Welsh intermediate education was concerned, there was no such friction. The two bodies worked together in perfect harmony. Although innumerable questions constantly arose, these were settled without the slightest friction. Some hon. gentlemen objected on the score of the expense that the elections would cause; but it was idle to suppose that by any change of authorities additional economy would be attained in the working of the schools. Every change of this kind resulted, on the other hand, in a considerable increase of expense. At the same time he entirely agreed with what the hon. Member for North Camberwell and the hon. Member for Carnarvon had said in regard to the desirability of retaining the machinery of small School Boards; but what were the Government going to do in the case of towns like Leeds with a population of 340,000, the School Board of which employed 2,000 teachers, and the value of whose school buildings was £2,000,000 sterling. It would be absolutely impossible for the local education authority to have that effective control which was necessary over these schools. The result would be that the control of the schools would fall into the hands of the officials. There were limits to human endurance and capacity, and the cashing of large numbers of men who had given free service to the cause of education—work which had been stimulated by the countenance of the people, would have the worst possible effect on education. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman, as this Amendment did not in any way prejudge the matter, to keep the matter open, so that when Clause 7 was reached they might be free to deal with the question of management. They did not ask for a moment that he should apply the same rule to all the School Boards, but they said that in regard to the large School Boards it would be the best educational policy not

to make the change contemplated at present in the Bill. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had made an attack upon the small School Boards in Wales, on account of the small attendance in their schools; but the proportion of attendance in the School Board schools in Wales was higher than in School Board schools in England. It was quite true that the proportion of attendance with the number on the register was less, but that was a very different matter. These small School Boards no doubt had their defects, in common with the other Boards in the country, but these defects were not inherent in the Welsh School Boards. The National Labour Education League, which consisted of representatives of the Trades Unions of the country, and which was an entirely non-political organisation, had issued a manifesto in which it was stated that the wage-earners found it difficult to follow from the debates that there would be any direct representation of the people on the new education committees. Under the Bill, the manifesto went on to say, it would be possible for a Committee to be constituted of nominated persons, not one of whom would be directly elected by the people. As had already been pointed out by the hon. Member for Carnarvon the responsibility for the control of the Schools had, by the Bill, been removed as far as possible from the electorate.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS said it was perfectly evident that this Clause had been framed on the assumption that Clause 5 would remain in the Bill as it had been originally drafted. There was a further point. Was it not the invariable practice in drafting that when a body was destroyed, it was necessary to transfer not only the duties but the property, rights and liabilities of that body to the new body? It was very evident that in respect to Schedule 2, the Bill would have to be remodelled. He submitted that under the altered circumstances in which the Bill was now placed, it would be necessary to introduce a new Clause dealing with the transference of the rights, property, and liabilities of the School Boards. If that were so, was it not natural and logical that the words should be omitted?

Mr. Herbert Lewis.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said that Clause 19 would meet the hon. Gentleman's point. It provided that the provisions set out in the second schedule relating to the transfer of property and officers, and adjustment should have effect for the purpose of carrying the provisions of the Act into effect.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS said he thought Clause 19 was framed in that way purposely, on the assumption that the first section of Schedule 2 remained unaltered, and that the option was retained in the Bill. There would be no object in putting in a provision as to the transference of the powers and rights of School Boards into the schedule, except to meet that particular case. That was why, from a drafting standpoint, he submitted that the Government might accept the Amendment.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that some alteration in the second schedule would be necessary as a result of the changes which had been made, but the Clause

before the Committee was not the proper place in which to make it.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS said it would be more in accordance with the usual practice if the words were omitted in the present Clause, and, if necessary, inserted in Clause 19.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he did not think so.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS said he regretted he could not agree with the Attorney General. He desired to associate himself with the remarks of the hon. Member for North Camberwell.

***THE CHAIRMAN:** I would remind the hon. Gentleman of the Standing Order against repetition.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS said he had no intention of transgressing the Rule, and would conclude by associating himself with the remarks of his hon. friend.

(4.18.) The Committee divided :—
Ayes, 265; Noes, 97. (Division List No. 297.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Alhhusen, Augustus H'ry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Staehope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Jos'line FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John Geo. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manhc'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G'rd W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Mich'l Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu

Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Alexan. H. (Shropsh.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glas.
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Conen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Field, William
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Mich'l (Lond. Univ.
Foster, Phil. S. (Warwick, S. W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred'k
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby-(Salop
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-(Line.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry SEdm'nds
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Sir Robert

Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midd'x)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harrington, Timothy
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Fred'k George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Ludon, W.
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Maconochie, A. W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Cann, James
M'Govern, T.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)

M'Killop, W. (Sligo, N.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Meyssey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon-y, John J.
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mount, William Arthur
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Grah'm (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. Jno. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Malley, William
Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretzman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Richards, Henry Charles
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Rigg, Richard
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)

Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Saunders, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Valentia, Viscount
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell. (Bir.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby, de Eresby Lord
Wilox, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wil-on-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Young, Samuel
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther

NOES.

Allan, Sir Wm. (Gateshead)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burt, Thomas
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Craig, Robert Hunter

Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Edwards, Frank
Ellis, John Edward
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst.)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merth. Tydvil)
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Bryn'r (Swansea)

Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kitson, Sir James
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lambert, George
 Langley, Batty
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Mather, Sir William
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Moss, Samuel
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Partington, Oswald

Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John
 Rea, Russell
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Russell, T. W.
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soare, Ernest J.
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)

Thomas, David Alfred (Merth.)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glam'gan, Gower)
 Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
 Tomkinson, James
 Toulmin, George
 Take, Sir John Batty
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 Weir, James Galloway
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 Humphreys-Owen.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.) said his desire was as far as possible to preserve the School Boards, provided that the local education authorities were of opinion that for the purposes of a managing body for the schools the School Board should exist through the whole area, or in some part of it. He had placed the Amendment on the Paper because he thought it was a pity that these authorities, which had done such good work in the past, should be abolished. The Amendment simply provided that the School Boards should continue to exist, as a managing body only, if the local education authorities came to the conclusion that, for this purpose, it was desirable that they should exist. The local education authorities would obviously have the fullest knowledge of educational affairs in their own particular districts, and to him it seemed it would be rather hard to say that those bodies should not have the power to declare that for this very limited purpose the School Board in their particular district should continue to exist. He quite agreed that all School Boards could not remain—that many of the smaller School Boards must go. He only suggested that where the local education authorities considered it desirable they should continue to manage the schools. Hon. Members did not appreciate the enormous duty the House was throwing on the local authorities. To place upon them the duty of managing the educational affairs of a large and populous county was to cast upon them an enormous task, and it was the duty of the House of Commons to consider how they could lessen, as far as possible, the

duty they were casting upon them. It was for this reason that he had placed the Amendment on the Paper, and he hoped when the right hon. Gentleman came to reply he would see his way to accept it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 37, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'if the local education authority so decide.'"—(Mr. Lloyd Morgan.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought the hon. Member would see that whatever variation there might be between the Amendment now proposed and that which had just been discussed at such length, that variation did not touch the arguments which had been addressed to the former Amendment, and those arguments were equally valid against this.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS desired merely to illustrate the value of this Amendment, which in his opinion ought to be accepted. In the county to which he belonged they had some very efficient School Boards, thoroughly capable of carrying out their work; and even in a small county of that kind the mass of work the management of the schools would entail on the local authorities was enormous. As a member of the local authority of that county, which would become the education authority under the Bill, he stood aghast at the work they would have to accomplish. All that the Amendment suggested was that the local authority should have the option—nothing more. It would be an immense

relief to the local authorities in many districts if they had the power to delegate such of their functions as they thought desirable to the School Board. It would be a matter of the greatest convenience to the large School Boards, which of course would be in strict subordination to the local education authorities; and it seemed a little hard that the local education authorities should not have, in the case of the best and most efficient School Boards, the power of delegating to those School Boards the duties which they believed could be more efficiently exercised by them.

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) thought the Amendment was important in two respects. In the first place it would relieve the local education authority from a great amount of work which would come upon them suddenly, and in the second, it would ensure the continuation of those School Boards that ought to be preserved. That was really the test of the value of this Amendment, because nobody could doubt but that in a large number of cases the School Boards would be preserved. If all School Boards were abolished, the result would be that for a time, at any rate, education would be in a state of chaos, but if this Amendment were accepted, it would enable the local authorities to preserve the School Boards, and thus enable them to do the great work which would be thrust upon them by this Bill. The decision of the local authority in these matters was not final, so that, in the event of their deciding to preserve the School Board, it did not necessarily mean that the School Board was to exist for ever. The Amendment was a

very important one, and nobody could deny that the education authorities would like to have it in their power to preserve the School Boards in many districts under their jurisdiction.

*Mr. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) thought the Amendment a very reasonable and moderate one, and if the suggestion of the previous speaker were adopted, and the proposal limited to a period of, say, three years, he failed to see what possible objection the Government could have to it.

MR. RUNCIMAN looked upon the present Amendment as being entirely different from the last. Its importance, especially in county boroughs, was so great, that the Committee ought to be careful lest they came to a rash decision. The city of Newcastle afforded a good example of the benefits that would be given by this Amendment to large towns. Of late years in that city there had been an outburst of municipal energy, and the powers of the City Council were taxed to such an extent that it was almost impossible to get through the work. By this Amendment Newcastle would be given the option of preserving—at any rate for a few years—the School Board which had done such excellent work in that city, and they would be able to carry on the schools without disturbing the municipal life. Moreover, if the operation of the Amendment were limited to three years, certain complications which must be foreseen would be avoided.

(4.48.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 105; Noes, 262. (Division List No. 298.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston

Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremor, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellis, John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond

Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb't John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harnsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, Sir William Henry

Mr. Herbert Lewis.

Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swans' a
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leng, Sir John
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mather, Sir William
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Moss, Samuel
Norton, Capt. Cecil William

Nussey, Thomas Willans
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)

Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hasings
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Lloyd Morgan and Mr.
Samuel Evans.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, August's Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brassey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
Burke, E. Haviland
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Campbell, John (Armagh S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.

Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Delany, William
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doogan, P. C.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Jyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Michael (London Univ.)
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S.W.)
Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elg. & Nairn)
Gore, Hon. G. C. Ormsby (Salop)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wendnesbury)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bury St Edmunds)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble

Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Middlesex)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harrington, Timothy
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houlst, Joseph
Howard, J. (Middlesex, Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Carrie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lundon, W.
Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Macnochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Cann, James
 M'Govern, T.
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meyley-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robert Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monmouthsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay

O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Roper, Colonel Robert
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)

Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Stroyan, John
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thorburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritten, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Powell (Birm.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Woralee-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Samuel
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Motion made and Question proposed,
 "That Clause 6, as amended, stand part
 of the Bill."

(5.5.) MR. BRYCE said that before they parted with this important Clause he thought one or two words ought to be said upon the position in which they were now placed. Obviously this Clause placed the local education authority in relation with two other authorities, one above it and the other below it. The authority above it was the Board of Education. What were the powers of the Board of Education over the local education authority, and how much could the local education authority do of itself without being interfered with? Upon that subject several questions had been addressed to the Government. They had had very different views given to the Committee upon the position of the Board of Education in regard to its power over the local authority. The Government had never committed themselves to a specific proposition upon this

question but they had made vague expressions, and general ideas had been thrown out as regarded the change which this law made in reference to the Board of Education. The First Lord of the Treasury said the effect would be to give a large measure of decentralisation and practically create a large number of local boards of education all over the country. The right hon. Gentleman certainly conveyed to their minds the impression that a great deal of that which had formerly been done by the Board of Education would in the future be done by the local authority. That might be right or wrong, although he confessed to having a doubt whether the local authority would have either the knowledge or the zeal of capacity, especially in relation to technical education, to fulfil the functions which he admitted, notwithstanding a certain amount of red tape, on the whole, had been carried out to the great advantage of the country and with a progressive rise in the standard of education. He did not feel so sure that the

local authorities would maintain the same standard as the Board of Education. The Vice-President of the Council put before the Committee on Monday last quite a different view. They gathered from him that the Board of Education would retain its powers. At any rate his view did not agree with the view given by the First Lord of the Treasury, except upon one point. The Vice-President did convey to the Committee that a good deal of the correspondence with the managers which had hitherto been carried on with the Board of Education would be carried on in future with the local authorities. They wanted a far more precise definition than they had had up to now. They knew what position the School Boards were in, and they had a pretty definite idea of their functions, for they had had thirty-two years' experience of them. They did not, however, know the position of these local authorities. It would take a long time to form a regular system, and there would be a great deal of friction, trouble and loss in regard to the high standard maintained by the Board of Education. Take the case of inspectors. In the discussion on Monday last it was stated by the Government that inspection by the Board of Education should continue. There was also to be inspection by the local authorities, because when an Amendment was moved providing power to do this, they were told that obviously the local authority would have that power, and that the Amendment was unnecessary. Therefore they were faced with two sets of inspectors, and what were to be their relations? Were they to divide their functions between them, and were the duties to be mapped out, one inspector representing the local authority and the other the Board of Education; or will they be concurrent and be able to cover the same ground? Suppose these inspectors differed in their views from the Board of Education, would the local authority be entitled to carry out its views against the Board of Education, or would it have to give way? He gave these as instances of difficulties which might arise. He was aware that they had had no such difficulties hitherto, because the inspection by the School Boards had been a totally different kind of thing. He felt that

either here, or in some other part of the Bill, they were entitled to have a more exact definition of the relative powers and duties of the local authorities and the Board of Education. There was another side which was raised by Clause 6, and that was in regard to the managers. Here, again, the parallel of the School Boards was not a complete parallel. The School Boards were practically absolute over their managers, and they did not need to appoint managers at all unless they liked. That was a point of the greatest importance. A School Board might appoint managers, but it was not bound to do so, and it followed that all the duties of managers could have been done by the School Board itself, which could have dispensed with the managers and have managed the schools by its own hand. He believed also that he was correct in saying that the teachers would all be appointed by the School Board, and although the managers would be asked to recommend teachers for promotion, the actual appointments had to come from the School Boards. He was not sure whether the practice of all School Boards was uniform upon that, but he knew that was the case in London. If he understood the Bill aright, the local authority everywhere had to appoint the managers. The School Board could dispense with managers altogether. He did not think the new education authority would have the same authority over its managers as the School Board had. On that point he would be glad to be enlightened by the Government. By the introduction of the words "and be responsible for" a change had been made on the Clause, the benefit of which he admitted, but it seemed to him that they were important words, because they threw on the local authority the responsibility of seeing everywhere that the schools were properly managed. He was not quite certain that a change which confined the operation of Clause 6 to schools provided by the local authority did not make a similar change necessary in another part of the Bill. He wished to know whether this responsibility was to attach to the local authority in respect of all schools, whether provided by it or not.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I understand you, it is so.

MR. BRYCE said he was glad to hear that. In that case it would be necessary to introduce parallel words which would import the same responsibility with regard to the other schools. If the right hon. Gentleman could not do that at this stage he would not press him. It was a matter that must be cleared up. The Committee understood that the Amendment which was accepted would apply to all schools. It must have been intended to cover all schools.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was not quite sure that he understood the right hon. Gentleman. There had been no alteration of the substance of the Clause at all in the respect which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded to. The Government accepted an Amendment of a drafting character in order to make the Clause clearer. Hon. Members thought that while it gave absolute control over secondary education in schools not provided by the local authority, there was certain security wanted in regard to other schools. The Clause as it now stood seemed to him to be quite unambiguous, because it gave absolute control over secular instruction in all schools, provided or not provided by the local authority.

MR. BRYCE said he was glad to hear that statement, but it was still far from clear what the relation of the local authority would be to the managers of the schools. It might be said that this question belonged rather to the next Clause than to the one the hon. Gentlemen were now discussing, but he thought it worth mentioning at this stage that they were not at all satisfied with the next Clause, in which he thought it would be necessary to insert a further definition of what the relation of the local authority to the managers was to be. He thought, therefore, it would be very desirable that it should be made perfectly clear that the managers were to occupy towards the local authority the same position as the managers had hitherto occupied with regard to the School Board, namely, that they were to

be the mere local agents of the local authority. It was far from clear what was to be the financial control of the local authority over the managers, and he thought an additional provision was required in order to make quite clear what financial control the local authority ought to possess.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he contemplated, as the result of the Bill, no absolute or uniform system throughout the country. It was quite possible that the relations between Whitehall and one local authority might be quite different from the relations between Whitehall and another local authority; and he equally contemplated the possibility that the arrangement which one local authority chose to effect between itself and the managers of its schools might be quite different in different places. Of course, they could not ask the State to spend large sums of money over education and not give it any control at all over the manner in which those sums were spent; but that did not necessarily mean, and would not mean in practice, that constant and minute discussion about buildings and the general goings on in each school which, it was alleged, had taken place to an excessive degree in the past. The relation between Whitehall and the individual schools would practically cease, and for it would be substituted the relation between Whitehall and the new education authority; and he imagined that the relation between those two bodies would be largely in the nature of consultation and advice. This elasticity of arrangement he regarded not as a defect, but as one of the great merits of the Bill. Experience would show which was the best plan, and although that plan would not be a pattern to be invariably followed in the case of each locality, still it would be something far superior to anything now in existence.

(5.30.) MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said that in the elasticity which the right hon. Gentleman had promised, they had in some respects that for which they had been looking for a long time. By the method of inspection to be adopted, the Department would prevent the falling behind of

any large number of schools from the minimum standard. The right hon. Gentleman thought it entirely unnecessary to incorporate the code of regulations in the Clause. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman's confidence in the future would be amply justified. He wanted to put a point to the right hon. Gentleman. In his district they had, beyond elementary education, certain intermediate schools, higher grade schools, and the new schools—so-called higher elementary schools, as well as science and art classes. Now, those schools earned their grants from the Department in respect of particular work which was done within a certain narrow limit. He was not using that expression as a criticism of the education which was given in them. His point was, whether the elasticity which the First Lord of the Treasury said was to be given to the new education authorities, would enable them to enlarge the scope of the intermediate classes or not?

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University) said he did not understand the point.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he would try to make his point clearer. The higher elementary schools were very distinctly science schools.

SIR JOHN GORST: No; they are not.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON: There is a teaching of science in the majority of them.

SIR JOHN GORST: The amount of science taught in the higher elementary schools is part of the general education, and is not specialised.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said that the schools might be good or not, but they knew that these schools were carried on under this particular Minute of the Board of Education. Now, supposing the local education authority carried on those schools, would they be able, under some scheme of their own, to receive grants for schools that would have rather a wider scope than elementary schools?

SIR JOHN GORST: That depends on the Code.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said that the whole point was that the Code limited the grants to children under fifteen years of age. What he was calling attention to was the intermediate class of schools, in which the children were from fourteen to sixteen years of age, and who were not going to carry on their education until they were eighteen or nineteen years of age.

SIR JOHN GORST said that they could not carry on under the Code, because the Code only applied to children under fifteen years of age. If the County Council carried on the children over fifteen years of age, they would be children attending secondary schools.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said his point was that the County Council education authorities ought to have some power of extending the kind of education to which he had referred to children attending the higher grade schools, without bringing them into the category of secondary schools.

SIR JOHN GORST said that the local authority had the most ample power to establish any kind of school it liked. But the elasticity would not go so far as the payment over of money voted by this House to elementary schools.

*MR. CHANNING said if no one else challenged a division against this Clause he would do so. His objection was threefold. He challenged the Clause as a matter of principle. This Clause transferred to an indirect, irresponsible, and remote authority the powers and duties hitherto exercised by the directly elected, directly responsible, and practically unfettered authority—the School Board. But, further, the Clause, taken in connection with the rest of the Bill, was vague and indefinite and ineffective; and, finally, the powers handed over had been so deliberately restricted that they did not constitute an authority which would have either the responsibility or the duties or the initiative of the present School Board system. He wished to enter a final protest against the abandonment of the *ad hoc* principle. He did not defend the

existence of the village School Boards as a matter of principle. But he wished to say that he knew that many of them had been doing excellent work, and had helped to raise the level of education. It was an absurd incongruity to place them on the same footing as the School Boards of London and other large towns. The policy of this Bill was reckless and suicidal in throwing aside the principle of the *ad hoc* authority in the conduct of education. Any one who looked at the history of education in this country would recognise that it was the unlimited powers which had been given to the School Boards in these great towns which had lifted the population out of the Slough of Despond and from the horrible degradation and ignorance in which the nation then lay, and had rendered possible the present state of educational efficiency. It was necessary to develop the School Board system and to co-ordinate it on bolder lines, and to build up a true structure of national education, as had been made possible in Scotland by the School Boards. The blame for the failure to work this out, the natural and logical system of national education, rested on both parties. Liberal leaders had failed in the courage and initiative to face and solve this problem and to remove the obvious defects of the Act of 1870. The policy of the other side had been uniform and persistent in thwarting and paralysing the growth of the School Boards. This Bill was the final stage in a long war against this, the only effective instrument for raising the standard of education. By Minutes, by grants, by Act after Act, they had done their best to weaken, instead of to expand, the national system, in order to bolster up the voluntary schools. The Archbishop of Canterbury had said that the School Board system was a magnificent system, which had done a wonderful work for the education of the people, and had also stimulated the education given in the Church schools. But that gave the real clue to the hatred with which the Boards were assailed. They had exasperated the subscribers to the voluntary schools. Canon Bury, a distinguished ecclesiastic of his country, and one of the ablest educationists in the country, declared some years ago that whenever the voluntary system had

managed to exclude the School Board system in towns, education had been starved and kept at a low level, and added that "the country would be advanced in no slight degree if the Voluntary system were superseded by some such system as the Board. Now, were they going by this Bill to give anything like a proper and a reasonable substitute for that system? They were doing nothing of the kind. They were giving no real equivalent of the School Board. They were substituting not a real living authority, but a non-representative authority, an irresponsible committee, for the objects of the clerical cliques who wished to destroy the Boards. The country knew, and would know more clearly, how the interests of the people were being sacrificed to hand over to the monopoly of the clerics and their friends the whole future of education. By this Bill they were not even creating a duty on the part of the local education authority of making a similar provision for education as was given by the Bill of 1870. To take some of the worst results of the Bill, the substitution of a remote and indirect authority for the directly elected School Board had the result of banishing the representatives of labour from the management of the schools. Under the new Bill, it was impossible for them to participate in the real and effective control of the education of the country. Working men could not be members of County Councils, or have any real initiative. That was one of the cardinal evils of the Bill, and doubly a misfortune, because there had been a remarkable growth of interest among the ablest of the working classes in education. The co-operative societies and the trades unions in great industrial districts such as he represented had expressed their condemnation of the Bill on the very ground that representatives of the working men were excluded from real work of education by the Bill. The schools would now be handed over to superior persons and ecclesiastics, and the working men of the country, who sent their children to these schools, were banished from it. It was a misfortune, too, that this scheme banished women, whose work in education had been so helpful and noble, from all

Mr. Channing.

real power and initiative. In future they could only share in the minor details of local management. This was not an endeavour to improve the education of the country, but an attempt on the part of the Government to enable the ecclesiastics to monopolise the education of the country. He condemned the Clause as he condemned the Bill. If he and others tried to piece together out of this general wreckage some fragments of machinery to carry on in some way the work of education of the people, they knew they were losing the best, and could only be patching the second or third best, or rather the worst, system they could have.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he sympathised with all that had been said, but he would not make any further protest for the retention of the School Board; he would simply devote his remarks to the particular question of the Clause. He desired some further information from the Government, before the Clause was got rid of, as to the relationship that existed between the Board of Education and the local authority. On that question the Bill was silent. They were conversant with the position between the School Boards and the Board of Education, but they were left entirely in the dark as to the relationship between the Department and the new authorities. It had been explained by the right hon. Gentleman that the chief object of the Clause was to allow greater elasticity in the working of the whole system, and certainly the Bill should be made as elastic as possible; but what he wanted to know was what the Department were doing in order to screw up the local authorities to the highest standard. The code of regulations would, they knew, be dealt with, in the future as in the past, by Whitehall; and further, the power of inspection would remain as at present. He did not know how it would work, but he was glad to hear that the power of inspection was to be retained by Whitehall. But even in regard to that matter they were slightly in the dark. Were the Board of Education to be a sort of appeal court, to which these people had a right to go; or would they have the

power of making periodical examinations? Were the periodical examinations they had now to continue? Were the Board of Education in London still to overlook the elementary education of the country? If they were, so much the better; if they were not, he supposed the Board would be put into motion by somebody from the district, and would come in as a superior controlling inspection Board, over the inspection held by the local body. Another question he desired to ask was, whether the Board of Education would be compelled to give to the local education authorities their properly allocated proportion of the Exchequer grant. A considerable amount of money was granted by the Exchequer to the Board of Education, and supposing the amount allocated to one County Council was £100,000 could that County Council make a demand for the money which the Board of Education would not be able to refuse?

SIR JOHN GORST said the Exchequer money was distributed in accordance with the number of children in the elementary schools, provided the schools were efficient. The amount received would be governed by the numbers of the children and their efficiency.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS expressed his gratification at having elicited that statement, because in the Bill it was not quite clear whether the Board of Education would not have the power to stop the grant. So the Board of Education would be able to see for themselves whether those schools were efficient. His desire was that the control of the Board of Education should be kept to the full, not for the purpose of throwing red tape round the local authority, but in order to bring the authorities up to a proper standard. Although the local authorities were alive to the necessity of having efficient schools in their own district, they were not so alive to the necessity as they should be, and therefore he would like to see full control retained by the Board of Education.

*(6.0.) MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said as one who had had

thirty years experience of School Board education, he could not part with an old friend without saying a few words. In the large towns there was a consensus of opinion in favour of the character of the work the School Board System had accomplished. They found these towns in a state of great educational deficiency and they set to work to remedy that deficiency, and had brought them to a position of efficiency which no man on either side of the House disputed for a moment. When the Bill of 1870 was introduced by Mr. Forster, whatever else he believed in with regard to education he had the conviction that the School Board system would ultimately overspread the land. Mr. Forster was not prepared to upset the existing system but he felt he was establishing a system more in consonance with English ideas. No doubt Mr. Forster's ideas would have become established, had the two systems been allowed to work side by side, without favouritism being shown to the denominational schools. But during recent years certain favour had been shown to the denominational schools, in order to bring them into line with the board school, which enabled them to maintain their position apart from the board schools. If the two systems were to be maintained, nothing could be said on the matter, but the increased funds being given in the way they were given to the denominational schools was absolutely unfair to the School Board schools, and there was a very great feeling against these schools being managed in this way. There was a very strong opinion that the proper way to extend the education of this country was to extend it by that means which had been successful in the past, and not that which had not, and to upset an existing institution like the School Board without a strong expression of opinion from the people of the country would be a most unpopular step to take. In the mind of the country there was no fault to be found with the School Board system. There were objections to the rates by which the system was carried out, but not to the system itself, and with regard to those objections he could conceive no section of the people, except those wedded to the denominational school system,

Mr. George White.

who disapproved of the rate for the School Boards, or who would vote for their abolition. Why should these bodies be abolished? They had carried out the purpose for which they were established, and in accordance with the natural law of progress they had endeavoured to keep pace with the demand for education along the line of what was called secondary education. Instead of abolishing the School Boards a much simpler plan would be to enlarge the system in areas where the small School Boards had failed to do their duty in the way large School Boards had; even then it might not be a success in all cases, because the success of these small School Boards largely depended on their getting a Chairman of intelligence, and where that had been done they had done equally good work as the large School Boards. Why should this great system be abolished simply because some of the small School Boards had failed in their duty? After thirty years experience, gained by great cost and great labour they were to be swept away, and their experience in a vast number of cases would never be utilised. The result would be that all they had learned in this work of thirty years would be brushed aside because a demand had been made by the ecclesiastical party for a larger share in the control of the schools. This step was not approved by the country, and in his opinion a great mistake had been made. What had been the work in many districts where School Boards did not exist? In Chatham, as he was told by the oldest denominationalist in the place, there was no public elementary school where a boy might qualify to enter the naval service, and if he desired to enter the navy he had to qualify in a neighbouring town. There were other districts in the country which were known to be educationally behind because they had not the benefit of School Board work. No one could deny that the School Board system had lived down any early opposition there might have been, otherwise it could not have done the work it had done, and compelled the managers of the denominational schools to do something to keep in some manner abreast of it. Yet this system was to be thrown on one side and for no reason. All that it had done proved the justification for its existence,

and no reason had been given for its abolition during the whole of the debate except the way in which County Councils and Borough Councils had disposed of their money for the purposes of technical education. There was no difficulty in the School Boards working with the County Councils, and the new system could have been grafted on to the School Boards in such a way that they would have been able to co-ordinate the whole system of education. He failed to see how the co-ordination of education was to be accomplished by the new system, and thought by abolishing the School Board system they abandoned the only hope of ever doing so.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh) said this Clause was destroying the Bill; it was destroying the old system, which had done good work, for a new authority which had not any of the powers or the means of performing the great work it was expected to undertake. Whatever else the School Board system might be, it had the direct support of the people, it brought home to everyone called upon to serve on a School Board his responsibility for the education of his locality, and it gave every ratepayer of the district the control of the educational system under which his child was being educated. They were losing that direct popular control by the people of a locality over the education in that locality, which in the past had produced such advantageous results. By the abolition of School Boards in the large boroughs they were sweeping away a mass of accumulated experience which it would be absolutely impossible to replace by a stroke of the pen, and education in some of the most progressive districts of the country might be very gravely affected. Personally, he deeply regretted that women were altogether excluded from the education authority. They might be placed upon the subordinate bodies—the Committee or the Board of managers—but they were absolutely excluded from any position in the chief authority. The majority of the school children of the country were girls, the majority of the teachers were women; and when they remembered the invaluable services which women had rendered on the

School Boards, and the utter impossibility, from the nature of the case, of men bringing to bear the precise qualities of knowledge and sympathy which belonged to women by virtue of their sex, it could not but be admitted that a grave penalty would be paid if women were excluded from the position they had hitherto occupied in our educational system. He hoped there was something to be said on the other side, and that something would be gained from the change. The change was not one which they on that side of the House would have made. They undoubtedly would have extended the direct popular authority of which they had had experience, with which they were not dissatisfied, and which had been of such inestimable benefit to education. But they were not in power, and some of them were glad the new authority would be universal, and the foundation of a national system would thus be laid, which he hoped might in time be made as effective and satisfactory as every member of the Committee desired it to be. Moreover, while the old authority dealt with only one class of school, the new authority would deal with all classes, and that would be a certain compensation. Above all, by this new authority they would be able to bring into immediate and vital relation the various kinds of education throughout the country. He might appear to be leaning too strongly towards the new authority, but he felt that there were great possibilities with the system if only the country and Parliament would see that they were developed. The municipal authority, as such, was more powerful than any *ad hoc* authority could be. It was part of the whole structure of our political and social life, and carried with it the prestige and power which belonged to a body which had to deal, not with education alone, but with the numberless material interests of the people, and whose powers and responsibilities were being daily added to. The municipal authorities were a great and growing power in political and social life, and he was glad that into their hands was being placed the vital question of education, which needed the greatest power that could be put behind it. He was inclined to think that hon. Gentlemen, who were

so solicitous for the continued vitality of that part of our educational system which rested upon denominational distinctions, might find in the future that they had made for themselves a master which they were unable to control. Absolute justice should be done to the denominational schools and the interests they represented, but there was something which stood above the interests even of denominations, and that was the interest of the country as a whole, and the authority which rightly belonged to the representatives of the people in regard to spending the people's money. But if this new authority was to do the best work, it would have to receive greater powers than were given under the Bill. The municipal authority must be a real authority, and have the powers which would enable it effectively to discharge the important duties that were to be imposed upon it. He did not think that under the Bill the municipal authority had a fair chance, and it was the duty of the Committee to see that full and adequate powers were given.

* THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that he was going beyond the question before the Committee.

MR. C. P. SCOTT said he would not further pursue that point. When Parliament was making these great changes they ought to take care to give the new authorities adequate powers, and impose upon them at least as full a range of duties as were imposed upon the School Boards. He wished to point out that they did not impose upon this new authority the obligation to provide in all cases for an adequate supply of school places, and in all these things they should give the authority adequate power, and impose upon them full duties so as to enable them to discharge the functions which were now being imposed upon them.

(6.33.) THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I rise to appeal to the Committee to come now to a decision upon this Clause. It has been debated at very considerable length, and I think everything has been said that can be said by

Mr. C. P. Scott.

hon. Gentlemen opposite and the Government upon all parts of this Clause. Therefore, I respectfully ask the Committee to allow us to proceed to a division now and dispose of this Clause.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said it was not at all an unusual thing for those who took a strong view upon this subject to desire to say a few words in singing their swan song in regard to this Clause. Perhaps he might be allowed to say what he had to say without any suspicion of a desire to prolong this discussion. He was not one of those who considered it necessary to believe that education was going to be affected in a retrograde sense by the proposals contained in this Clause, but what he did say was that they were entitled, whatever their opinions might be, to point out upon this important Clause that there was an essential distinction between the position of the large towns and the country districts. The hon. Member for North-West Norfolk spoke almost in tones of emotion in regard to the disappearance of that great and important body which had done so much excellent educational work in his constituency. He very largely shared those feelings in regard to large towns. The essential distinction between the two positions was that this Clause was mainly a work of destruction in regard to the large towns; in regard to the rural districts this Clause was mainly a work of construction. That was an extremely important issue, and he was rather sorry that the right hon. Gentleman should appear to think that they were unduly trespassing upon the time of the House by desiring to place on record their opinion that this Bill would have been a better Bill

it had drawn a broader and clearer distinction between the School Boards in large towns and those in the country districts outside large towns. There was a School Board in the Forest of Dean which undoubtedly resembled the School Boards in large towns, although this was an exceptional case. Admitting as he did that there was a very great deal to be said *pro* and *con* upon this important question, he believed that the County Councils of England, although they had not identified themselves with the attack made upon the School Boards, now that

Parliament was going to place important duties upon them, would do their best to rise to the level of the great opportunity that was cast upon them. Their task would be an exceedingly difficult one, and he was not inclined to be alarmed at the action of some County Councils, because clerks of County Councils were a very prudent and circumspect body of men, and were over prone to desire to have a very large mass of work suddenly thrown upon their shoulders. He believed that the County Councils would do their best in this matter and that they would be successful. He was not urging this view because of the success of the County Councils in regard to technical education, of which they had heard so much. The reason he held this view was on account of the success of the County Councils in regard to their administrative work generally. In regard to a body which had shown its fitness in regard to the ordinary administration of the country, and had used its powers largely and efficiently, why were they to suppose that this elected body would fall suddenly short of the great opportunity given to them in regard to education. He believed they would seek to take advantage of the experience of former members of the School Board where they existed, and would try to find a place for them on the Councils. For those reasons he was not prepared to vote against this Clause. He did not think any complaint could be made of the discussion which had taken place upon this Clause in trying to place their reasons for interfering with School Boards of large towns. That had been the burden of their complaint, and the same arguments applied in great cities and scattered populations near large towns. Those were the reasons which he desired to respectfully place before the Committee, and he hoped and believed that while a great disaster had taken place by the destruction of the School Boards in large towns, the County Councils would rise to the level of the great opportunity in regard to education which was going to be cast upon them.

*DR. MACNAMARA said that as far as the great boroughs were concerned he should have been glad if the Government had retained the *ad hoc*

authority. The municipalities of our great boroughs were not wanting in public spirit. He did not think the Government realised even now the extreme detail and the stupendousness of the work they were directing the municipalities to undertake. In Liverpool, for instance, they were asking the Municipal Council to take over the management of the education of 100,000 children, the control of 3,000 teachers in 400 school departments, and entailing an expenditure of half-a-million of money every year. He believed they would all do their best, but the work was so great and minute in its detail that it would be impossible for them to look after it properly, and the work he feared would fall back into the hands of the officials. He believed that the destruction of the School Boards in the great towns was the greatest educational leap in the dark which had yet been taken. As to the administrative county he confessed to great anxiety. He could not shut his eyes to the fact that members of the administrative county were not so keen about a generous education of the working classes. No doubt things were different in Wiltshire, represented by the noble Lord, but he recollected that when they got the whisky money there was a proposal to spend half of it upon a lunatic asylum.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE:
The proposal was not adopted.

*DR. MACNAMARA said that was quite true, but the proposal was brought forward, and it could not be said that the administrative counties were very keen upon this matter. They were keen about technical education of an agricultural character when provided by money which they did not themselves contribute. What he was afraid of was that, unless they superimposed from Whitehall a rigid standard to which these people must come up, it would be disastrous to the children in the villages. Their honest conviction being that education would take the people off the land, what could be expected? An agriculturist once said—

“We are doing too much for the children. All that we should teach them is to fear God, honour the King, and touch their hat to the squire.”

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That was the agricultural idea of education. He did not suggest for a moment that it was at all general. He was anxious to secure that, however much elasticity, however much local agricultural colour they might desire to give to the education of these children, Whitehall inspection should not be relaxed, and that these new authorities in the counties should be compelled to come up to the standard of the Education Department as the School Boards had done in the past.

SIR WILLIAM MATHER said the House should endeavour to make the Government feel how serious was the situation created by the extinction of the School Boards. He wished his hon. friends who had been so eloquent during the last two hours had taken the pains to express their views when there were Amendments before the Committee having for their object the retention of the School Boards. On this side of the House they regretted for practical reasons the abolition of the School Boards. He did not think the Government quite recognised what they had to replace in abolishing the School Boards. In some 220 or 230 large districts, with populations of over 20,000 persons, where School Boards now obtained, there were some 2,500 persons controlling the elementary education in those areas. He desired to impress on the First Lord of the Treasury that they who had all along resented the abolition of School Boards were bound to demand that in Clauses 7 and 8 the Government should provide an educational power equal in efficiency, experience, ardour, and earnestness to that represented by these 2,500 members of School Boards now displaced, and to take care that the elementary education should be conducted as efficiently as it had been under the School Boards.

*MR. HELME (Lancaster) said the powers to be transferred to the new education authority under Clause 6

would not give that authority all the powers which were enjoyed by the School Board. There were powers exercised by the School Board other than those contained in the Education Acts. For instance, there were the powers under the Canal Boat Act, and he thought these also should be transferred to the new authority in order that the scope of the action of the education authority in the future should be as full as that of the School Board in the past. He hoped the central authority would have its hands strengthened, so that in those districts where the standard was not up to what was generally desired by the Board of Education, there should be full power to compel the local authorities to bring up their educational provision as to supply of efficient and suitable public school accommodation to the standard necessary from a national point of view; as the Bill stood they need only provide that which in their own opinion might be necessary. A mandamus to compel, as proposed, was a poor substitute for the powers now enjoyed. Reference had been made to the willingness of the Lancashire County Council to undertake the work to be placed upon it by the Bill. He pointed out that while expressing general willingness to undertake the work, it had passed a resolution (altering a recommendation of Special Committee, that the Ratepayers should have proper representation) and demanding that this be "subject as regards schools not vested in the local educational authority, to the ratepayers having full control over expenditure on maintenance and the secular instruction to be given." They could not be too careful in seeing that the intention of the House at the present time as to secular control of all schools in that respect was not jeopardised.

(7.0.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 287; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 299.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden

Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.

Arro, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain Colonel James Robert

Dr. Macnamara.

Raird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Mic. Hicks
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bo-cawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn
 Brasseay, Albert
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Aust. (Worc'r
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clive, Capt. Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edw. Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crosley, Sir Savile
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Delany, William
 Dickenson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Forster, Henry William

Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fred'k.
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Orn. sby- (Salop)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Green, Walford D. (Wedsnesb'y
 Greene, Sir E. W. (B'y'r SEdm'nds
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Groves, James Grimble
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld G. (Midd'x
 Hamilton, Marq. of (London'y
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harrington, Timothy
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick George
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Higginbottom, S. W.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Hope, J. F. (Shef'ld, Brightside
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Dorset, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'h
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Fred'k N.S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., E-kdale)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
 London, W.
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maconochie, A. W.

MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Cann, James
 M'Govern, T.
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Martin, Richard Bidolph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Meysey-Thompson, Sir H. M.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropsh.)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamst'w
 Morgan, Hon. F. (Monm'tsh.
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Grah. (Bute
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Percy, Earl
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Rich'd
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalyb'dge
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert

Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Smith, Jas. Parker (Lanarks)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf. Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheff'ld)
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notta.)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-und. Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald

Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (York.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 Young, Samuel
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caine, William Sproston
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Cremer, William Randal
 Crombie, John William
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Ellis, John Edward
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Furness, Sir Christopher
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale

Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Labouchere, Henry
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Leng, Sir John
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Perks, Robert William
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John

Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman- (Hastings)
 Tomkinson, James
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Wallace, Robert
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (Norfolk)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 John Wilson, (Durham).

Clause 7 :—

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH moved that progress be reported. This was he said, a very important Clause, and it being now quarter-past seven, it would be impossible that any progress could be made with the debate upon it before the adjournment for the dinner-hour.

Motion made and Question proposed,
 "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—
 (Mr. Ellis Griffith.)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was perfectly true that they could not hope to make very much progress with the debate before the Adjournment. He had been pressed earlier in the afternoon on certain important subjects which were germane to this Clause, and he had endeavoured to foreshadow some points which he thought might commend themselves to the Committee. They would not alter the spirit of the Clause, but make more detailed provisions than were contained in the Bill at present. He thought, that the best course to adopt would be to put

these Amendments on the Paper. The Amendments did not depart from the spirit or general principle of the Clause, though the wording was largely modified. He would put these Amendments on the Paper that evening in order that Members might have time to consider them. The Amendments would raise the question of management, and would make it unnecessary to discuss the subject on any other Clause. The Bill would not be taken into consideration again until next Monday.

Question put, and agreed to.

Committee report progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [7th April], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) complained of the manner in which the Government tried to force this Bill through on every occasion when they had a few minutes to spare. This was not the first occasion on which it had been attempted to be done, and, considering the few Scotch Bills which were brought before the House, he thought it was most unfair. Of course, if it was brought forward because the Government wished to fill up five minutes by talking upon the Bill, that could be done, but it was not the way to get through the business of the House. This Bill proposed to make a very important change in one of the principal Clauses of the Local Government Act for Scotland. It was a most difficult thing to remember the particulars of all these Bills when one was called upon to discuss them without notice, but there were two sections of the Local Government Act which it was proposed to alter by this Bill. The Local Government Act dealt with certain grants which were to be given to the lunatic asylums, and there was another grant which he believed was a medical grant. The medical grant was £20,000, and that for the lunatic

asylum was about £90,000. These grants were given under the Local Government Act, and were provided out of the probate duty. Certain sums were allocated to England, Ireland, and Scotland, and the section which this Bill sought to amend had reference to the portion of this probate money which was allocated to Scotland. A similar Bill for England had already dealt with the English money.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

OPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS. BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAIL- WAY BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

* (9.0.) MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said the House would expect from him a statement of the reason why he opposed the Second Reading of this Bill, the object of which was to extend the time by two years for the purchase of land and completion of the works. He would ask, in the first instance, this question of those who were in charge of this Bill, whether the property was still in the hands of the Official Receiver in Bankruptcy. This railway was one of many paper railways which they had in the metropolis. It had already placed four Acts of Parliament on the Statute-book, and this was the fifth Bill presented to this House by the promoters. Although the line was authorised in 1893 the railway had not yet been opened to the public. This railway was financed, engineered, and constructed by contractors for whom the London and Globe Company were responsible, a company which was now hopelessly bankrupt. They had been told that a considerable part of the line had already been constructed, but he would like to point out, in the first instance, that the tunnel through which this line passed was of a very small size, and it could not

possibly carry the traffic which its monopoly should call upon it to carry. Speaking on behalf of many Londoners interested in this matter, he urged that they were entitled to know whether the line was to be under the direct control of Mr. Yerkes, the promoter of many derelict tube schemes in the Metropolis. This was a question of some importance, owing to the fact of the connection of that gentleman with the District Railway Company. It was no doubt possible, indeed it was extremely probable, that this line would join up with the District Railway at Charing Cross, or some other derelict railway on that route. If they authorised the construction of this line it would be used as an ally of the District Railway, to divert traffic from its natural course on the District Railway. Before the House consented to the Second Reading of this Bill surely they were entitled to have some definite and final statement from the promoters. The promoters of this line promised as long ago as 1894 that the line should be made, but it still remained a paper line. To those who had examined the question it appeared to be only one of the bases of the American schemes which were largely connected with speculative operations on the London Stock Exchange. If this House sanctioned this proposal, it would deprive for a number of years a large portion of the Metropolis of the advantage of rapid means of communication, and would thus inflict a serious blow at many of those attempts which were made by municipal authorities and others to deal with those social evils under which the vast industrial population of London suffered. The more the proposals in this Bill were considered, the more clear it became that the policy contained in it might be summarised by saying that the object was to bring afloat the speculative operations of stocks of discredited steam railways, and to divert from its natural course traffic which should relieve the congested districts of the Metropolis. The intention of Parliament in creating a comprehensive scheme for the treatment of underground railways was that they should be thoroughly useful to the public, and that there should be competition, but the effect of this Bill would

be that the company would be tied hand and foot, and that it would be unable to carry out that object. The true object of this Bill was not to serve London, but to serve the District Railway, and it was therefore for that reason that he suggested they should insist on having from the promoters of the Bill some definite assurance that they would work in harmony with other tube railways, whether promoted by them or by their antagonists, so that there might be rapid and cheap communication afforded to all dwellers in the Metropolis.

Amendment proposed—

“To leave out the word ‘now,’ and at the end of the Question to add the words, ‘upon this day three months.’”—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, “That the word ‘now’ stand part of the Question.”

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) said although he was in favour of all competition, and of as large an increase of tube railways as possible, and recognised the enormous importance and benefit that tube railways would confer on districts through which they would go, yet there were two or three points worthy of consideration before the House agreed to the Second Reading of this Bill. This Bill was part of a system of railways or tubes which was to circulate throughout London. The promoters had no doubt followed out the recommendations of the Joint Committee that tube railways should be constructed on a system for the whole of London. Those who had followed the evidence before that Committee would realise the importance of that recommendation, because the frequent trains that would run along the electric railways would have to be dealt with so that junctions might be formed at the different suburbs. Unfortunately this group of railways had to a certain extent amalgamated, but it had only made itself into a system for feeding the future electrified railway of the present District Railway. It utterly failed to do that which every tube railway system must undertake to do, and that was to do its share to relieve the great pressure of the over-population and crowding of the great district

Mr. Claude Hay.

in the East End of London. This system of railways did not touch the East End of London except on the fringe. The promoters, in the paper which they had issued that morning, suggested that the Whitechapel Stepney and Bow Line carried out that idea. That might be so, but it must be remembered that the traffic on this part was already very heavy, and those who were acquainted with the East End of London knew that the traffic was such that it could not possibly carry any more. Therefore the fact remained that this Bill would not be in any way a relief to the East End of London.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! I understand that the hon. Member is dealing with the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Company. I do not see how that affects the East End of London.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: It is part of the system which leads up to this particular line. It has been urged by the promoters that this line supplies the East End of London. I am arguing that it does not.

MR. SPEAKER: This Bill does not ask for new powers to make any new line. It only asks for further borrowing powers. I do not see how the hon. Member's observations are in order upon it.

MR. FLOWER (Bradford, W.): There are a great number of Bills on the Paper dealing with the subject of tube railways. Would it not be possible on one of these Bills to raise something in the nature of a general discussion?

MR. SPEAKER: It might be if new powers were asked for. It is quite competent for the House to say that it declines to grant new powers, but it would be unfair to the promoters of this particular Bill to allow irrelevant arguments to be introduced upon it because the House desired to raise a general discussion on other Bills.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I quite understand your point, Sir, but I do not wish to allude to any of the other Bills except those that are promoted by the syndicate which is promoting this one. After all, this syndicate is to work in conjunction with other railways. I will merely say that this is part of a system of tube railways which fail to do anything for the East End of London, and therefore it ought not to be considered as part of a complete system. Consequently I do not think the House ought to sanction it.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): On a point of order, Sir, may I ask how it is possible for a railway which runs from Waterloo Road to Baker Street to do anything for the East End of London?

MR. SPEAKER: I have already pointed out that this Bill is merely one extending the powers already granted.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I will merely say that, in my opinion, this House ought not to concede any extension of powers to this Company, it is contrary to the recommendations of the Joint Committee of last year, which was that any railway sanctioned should be part of a system for the whole of London.

(9.18.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 174; Noes, 10. (Division List No. 300.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Alhusen, Augustus Henry E.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
A'rol, Sir William
Aberley-Jones, L.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Ba'four, Rt.Hn.Gerald W. (Leeds)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John

Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bousfield, William Robert
Bra-sey, Albert
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton

Causton, Richard Knight
Cantley, Henry Strother
Cawley, Frederick
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cremer, William Randal
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
D'Jany, William
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph

Doogan, P. C.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manx'r
 Field, William
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Grant, Corrie
 Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Groves, James Grimble
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brompton
 Harwood, George
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Arthur Fred.
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Jones, David Brynm'r (Swansea
 Jones, William (Carnarv'nshire
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Lambert, George
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund

Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Cum. Penr
 London, W.
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Crae, George
 M'Govern, T.
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edinbr'gh W.
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Mellor, Rt. Hn. John William
 Milvain, Thomas
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pilkington, Lt.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Purvis, Robert
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)

Redmond, William (Clare)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Kopner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hn. James
 Rutherford, John
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Spear, John Ward
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stroyan, John
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan Gower
 Toulmin, George
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 White, George (Norfolk)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Young, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Banbury and Mr.
 Herbert Robertson.

NOES.

Ambrose, Robert
 Bull, William James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles

Flower, Ernest
 Harrington, Timothy
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Morgan, Dav. J. (Walthamst.
 Strachey, Sir Edward

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Claude Hay and Mr.
 Warner.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time, and com-
 mitted.

BROMPTON AND PICCADILLY CIRCUS
 RAILWAY (NEW LINES, ETC.) BILL
 [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
 "That the Bill be now read a second
 time."

*MR. CLAUDE HAY said he begged to
 move the Bill be read the second time that
 day three months. It proposed to construct

a line from South Kensington Station
 by Brompton Road and Knightsbridge
 to Piccadilly Circus; but it should not
 have the assent of the House because it
 did not conform to the rules laid down
 by the Joint Committee as to the
 manner in which tube lines should be
 constructed. In 1889, the Company
 obtained authority to connect the line
 with the contemplated deep-level line of
 the District Railway, but the connecting
 line had never been made; and the
 Company had now passed into the
 absolute control of the District Railway
 Company, which notoriously used the

proposed line as a block line to prevent the construction of any other railway down Piccadilly. It was remarkable if the promoters had any intention of building the line that land had not been purchased for a station in, or near, Piccadilly Circus. The finance of the Company was mysteriously connected with Mr. Yerkes's promotion companies, which might be described as further increasing profit companies. Though it was alleged that a contract had been entered into for the construction of the line, there was no satisfactory proof that any such contract was binding, and it was singular that the contract, though promised, had never been produced. The more he looked into the proposals of the Bill, the more he was convinced that it was not designed with a view to the growth or the welfare of London. The history of the District Railway and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway showed that it was false to argue that a desire for high dividends would keep the company true to the interests of the public. The proposed line was intended to serve the interests of the District Railway and not the interests of the public; and the House ought not to give Second Reading to this and similar Bills without receiving from the promoters undertakings that the finance was sound; that the works would be completed without delay; that the company would work in harmony, not only with the District Railway, but with all other tube railways, to provide a through route and an adequate service of workmen's trains, and that the promoters would not oppose any other tube railway which hereafter might come to Parliament for powers. That might appear a strong demand to make, but it was justified by the history of railways in the Metropolis. If they looked at the District Railway, the Thames Steamboat Company, which were hindrances, instead of helps, to London locomotion, they could not be too careful in arranging beforehand the terms on which locomotion enterprises should be established. Tube railways could not now be regarded as new enterprises, or as involving any considerable risk; although in a thinly populated suburb, the prospects of a

tube line might be doubtful. But the promoters of the line had selected perhaps the most profitable route for locomotion in the world, and it was only reasonable that if they received so valuable a concession it should be as compensation for making a line in the outlying districts, in which time was required in order to build up a profitable business. The line would obtain some of its custom by drawing traffic away from existing railway, tramway, and omnibus companies, but it would do nothing to shift the population from crowded centres to thinly populated suburbs, which were badly in need of increased transit facilities. The Company asked for powers to obtain the cream of underground traffic in London, without conforming to the principle laid down by the Joint Committee. Any hon. Member who read the newspapers would have observed during the last day or two mystic phrases and vague assurances from the Chairman of the District Railway, but nothing definite was said as to what the intentions of the Company were as regards the very serious problem of London locomotion, or that there was any intention on the part of the District Railway and its allies, of adhering to the principles and conditions Parliament had decided upon in respect to Tube Railways. On the other hand, they had categorical statements as to what would be done by others who were seeking similar powers. Therefore, he felt that it was neither wise nor proper for Parliament to give a blank cheque to the hon. Member for the Louth Division of Lincolnshire, who was concerned in the promotion of the Bill. Before they passed the Second Reading they were entitled to know what he and his brother promoters were prepared to do if Parliament conferred on them the magnificent advantage of constructing a tube railway through the most profitable part of London. He would protest against the Second Reading of the Bill unless assurances were given which would satisfy those who had the best interests of London at heart.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question.

MR. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W. R., Sowerby) said he hoped that the House in this and the other cases would decline to go into these details. It seemed to him an absolute waste of time. The House had an effective system of investigating such matters, and he did not think their time ought to be taken up with a long string of details of which they could know nothing, and on which they were asked to decide upon *ex parte* statements. This Bill had been examined by a Committee of the House of Lords, and they had passed the Bill. He suggested that the House of Commons should now send the Bill to a similar Committee of their own, who could go into all these details and take evidence. He therefore hoped the House would decline to accept the Amendment.

MR. MILVAIN (Hampstead) said he assumed that there would be a general argument on the group of tube railways now before the House. As the representative of the Borough of Hampstead—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! No doubt the question as to whether the House ought, on general grounds, to give powers to any Company proposing additional tube railways in London was before the House, but the hon. Member would not be at liberty to discuss the merits of the particular Bills which follow the Bill now under discussion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) said that as the House had passed the Second Reading of the Bill, he should like to move the Instruction which stood in his name.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Instruction as it stands on the Paper is not in order. It is in order down to and including the words "underground railways," and the hon. Member can move that portion of it.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER said he submitted to the ruling of the Chair, although the omission of the last two lines vitiated the principle which he wished to bring before the House. He would not press the Instruction now, but would bring it forward after the Second Reading of one of the other Bills.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 1 AND No. 3) BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Order for Second reading read.

*(9.50.) MR. CLAUDE HAY said he had on the Paper a Motion of a similar character to that which he had moved in respect of the previous Bill. The present Bill was to construct a line which was authorised in 1893, and was another of the derelicts of Mr. Yerkes, in respect of which no less than six Acts of Parliament had been passed, but nothing had been done towards constructing the railway. Therefore he felt he had some justification in saying that Parliament should ponder before giving a Second Reading to the Bill. Surely, sufficient time had elapsed since 1893 to enable the persons who had obtained the powers to construct the railway. Last year there was a Bill to extend the route to Victoria. Such an extension to Victoria would add enormously to the advantage of this line, and that that valuable extension should have been cut off was another illustration of the disadvantage of allowing any steam railway to have control of any of these tube railways. He believed the line was proposed, not with any view of constructing it, but in order to occupy the route, and thus prevent others from constructing a tube to the advantage of London as a whole.

Bill read a second time and committed.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL.

Bill read a second time and committed.

**GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND
RAILWAY BILL.**

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY said that as he had again a Motion on the Paper with regard to this Bill, he thought he ought to give his reasons for putting it forward. Immunity was asked for in this case from the bulk of the regulations which Parliament had decided to impose on tubular railways in the Metropolis, on the ground that it was a prolongation of an existing railway terminus, indeed that it was the prolongation of Finsbury Park and King's Cross Stations. He felt that the time had come to recognise the gravity of having a hotchpotch of clauses, regulations, routes and management as regarded the underground locomotion of London. This Bill was ostensibly designed to give facilities for the population served by the Great Northern system, but there was no proper interchange of communication, and they had no guarantee that workmen's tickets would be given at through fares. They must insist that Parliament should pass the Second Reading of the Bill with its eyes open. If they authorised a line which created a muddle in the underground system of London, the blame would be put on them and not on the promoters. He appealed to the House to recognise the seriousness of the proposals contained in the Bill, and to see that the interests of workmen using this line were adequately considered.

*SIR. J. DICKSON-POYNDER said he wished to raise a question as to this line, which had reference also to the Bill just considered. If these Bills were passed, there would be a through route from Brompton to Finsbury Park. There was already a Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Act; then there was the Bill considered just now, projecting a line from Piccadilly to Holborn, and that Bill was assented to by the House of Lords on the distinct understanding that it was to be run in connection with this Great Northern and Strand Railway. It was very important that a regulation should be laid down that there should be through fares for this through route, irrespective of how many Bills went to make up the system. At present there were three distinct groups of fares, and

the fare for the through journey from Brompton to Finsbury Park might come to 8d. because in the Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill no provision at all for workmen's fares was made, so that it was possible that 1d. a mile might be charged. This was the reason why he had placed an Instruction on the Paper similar to that which he had put down in reference to the Baker-street and Waterloo Railway Bill. He knew that the matter was extremely difficult, and could only be properly discussed upstairs; but he thought the House would agree that these Bills which went to make up a through route should be brought before the notice of one and the same Committee, so that they should not be dealt with in a piecemeal fashion but as an entire system. He hoped that when he moved it the House would agree to the first part of his Instruction.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER suggested that the hon. Member should move so much of his Instruction as was in order on each Bill, and by that means draw the attention of the Committee to the question. He hoped, however, the House would have an assurance from the promoters of these lines that there would be no trouble on the score of workmen's fares.

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) said the point raised by his hon. friend the Member for the Chippenham Division was very important, and he hoped that it met with the sympathy, not only of the House, but also of the Board of Trade. It was most important, when there was a group of railways like this with a through route, that there should be, if possible, a joint consideration of them. Subject to what the Speaker might say, he submitted that it was in order so far to refer to this matter as to say that, if it was beyond the power of Parliament to make these three sets of promoters put their heads together and arrive at some arrangement, then the only way in which they could bring the promoters to their senses would be by voting against the second reading, which no one desired to do.

*MR. SPEAKER said that it was obviously beyond the powers of the Committee to compel the promoters of this

Bill and the promoters of two other Bills to put their heads together and make an agreement, and therefore an Instruction ordering them to do so was clearly out of order.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) trusted the House would give this particular Bill a Second Reading, and also support the Instruction of the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division. He further hoped that the promoters would obviate the necessity for a division by promptly accepting such an Instruction.

MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) said he was desired by the promoters of this Bill to say that they would not have the slightest objection to the Instruction, and would be glad that it should pass and be considered by the Committee. One reason why a uniform system of rates had not this session been proposed was that the District Railway, with which these tubular railways had interchanging stations, was hedged about at present by various agreements with neighbouring companies, although not to the extent the hon. Member for Shoreditch had represented; and this railway, which would be worked by electric traction in eighteen months time, would be obliged, in accordance with an undertaking given to Lord Ribblesdale's Committee, to come for a complete revision of their fares. The probability was that that Company would have one uniform rate over the whole of their railway, and as they would have to subject their rates to the scrutiny of a Committee next session, the promoters of these tubular railways had not thought it necessary to propose now a general unification of rates. But they would be glad to accept the Instruction.

Bill read a second time.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill [*Lords*] to insert, so far as practicable, in the Bill provisions to carry out the recommendations as to workmen's trains and fares contained in the Report of the Joint Committee of Session 1901 on Underground Railways. — (*Sir John Dickson-Poynder.*)

Mr. Speaker.

LONDON UNITED ELECTRIC RAILWAYS BILL [*LOARDS*] (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

(10.15.) MR. BANBURY, in moving that the Bill be read a second time this day three months, said that he did so, not on account of any detail that could be conveniently considered in Committee, or out of any disrespect for the decision of the House of Lords, but because he believed the Bill to be wrong in principle. The Bill was practically the same in principle as the Piccadilly, City, and North-East London Bill, and he would suggest that if the House took the discussion on these two Bills together it would save time, and then if the present Bill was approved, he would not move his Motion on the other. These two Bills were practically one undertaking, extending over about twenty miles. Fifteen miles of the scheme were in competition with existing railways or with railways which had been sanctioned by the House. About four miles, from Clapham Junction to the Marble Arch, were not open to that objection; but the main object of the line was to run in competition with the Brompton and Piccadilly, the District, the North London, and the Great Eastern systems. The Brompton and Piccadilly line was a tube railway; this Bill proposed to put underneath this tube railway another tube railway, so that they would have four tubes together, two above the other. Tube railways had caused great annoyance to the frontagers on the line of route. The vibration had been great, and damage to property had been caused; but if the House sanctioned the placing of four tube lines in close proximity, it was evident that the dangers from vibration would be increased. Thus two tube lines were to compete against each other, and the system was to be parallel with the District Railway. For the last twenty years the District Railway had paid no dividend to the ordinary or preference shareholders, and with great difficulty it had raised the money to electrify its system. It stood to reason

that when this railway was electrified, it would be better for the travelling public than to descend a considerable distance underground and proceed by tube. (Cries of "No, no.") It was evident that that would be so. He did not think that it was fair to the shareholders of the District Company to allow a competing scheme, unless it could be shown that they had infringed the powers granted to them, or did not meet the demands of the public. At present the company was doing its best to meet the demands of the public, and there was no hurry for this scheme. It would be better to wait until they saw the electrification of the system carried out before they sanctioned this competing scheme. The same argument applied to the case of the other railways. He denied that competition of this kind really meant a benefit to the public; it meant rather ruin to the competing companies, who in the end combined, and any advantage gained by the public during the quarrel was lost. In the case of companies struggling for an existence, it was impossible for them to give those facilities which they would be in a position to provide if they had sufficient capital at their disposal. Large sums of money had been lost in this way. He agreed that the more they encouraged money to be invested in this country instead of going abroad the better it was for all classes. [AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!] Under the scheme it was proposed to raise £16,000,000, and he pointed out that the Central London Company paid only a dividend of 4 per cent. and the South London Company 2½ per cent. How could it be expected that a railway which was to be constructed at this cost, open to competition over fifteen miles of its system, could pay a dividend when the Central London system, tapping the traffic on the finest route, and open to little competition, could only pay 4 per cent.? In the ordinary course of events he did not believe the necessary capital would be found; but in the present case there was no doubt that it would be found, because the undertaking was being financed by Messrs. Morgan. He did not suppose that they were going to find all the capital themselves. They would, no doubt, come to the English public to assist them in finding the

money. Messrs. Morgan had been an extremely successful firm, and people were apt to say that because they had been successful in the past they would be successful in the future. He remembered that there was what was called a railway mania in 1847. George Hudson, a very great man in his time, projected an enormous number of railways, but he was before his time, and he believed that Messrs. Morgan were a little before their time now. He contended that the necessity for these railways had not been shown, that this system of competition was wrong, and that if these lines were constructed the only result would be a great loss of money to the people of this country, without any benefit to the public.

Amendment Proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. BUTCHER (York) said that he had listened with the utmost care to the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Peckham, and he had been unable to discover from the speech any proof that this Bill violated any fragmentary or microscopic principle of legislation, unless, indeed, his hon. friend was prepared to ask the House to declare as a principle that there must not be two competing modes of locomotion on the same route. That was a principle the House never had affirmed, and it seemed to him that it would be a disastrous thing for the travelling public if such a principle were affirmed now. All the matters that his hon. friend had referred to were matters of detail, and he hoped the House would not waste its time in the discussion of details, but would send the Bill to the Committee upstairs.

MR. BULL (Hammersmith): Said he was deeply interested in this Bill. He sincerely trusted that this measure would be given a fair chance, and that the project of a railway which would run from Hammersmith to Piccadilly would pass. He complained that the District Company had not done anything

to meet the wants of the public. They had, indeed, recently proposed to reduce their fares on certain routes, but where there was no competition they did not do so. When the promoters of this scheme came forward and offered to make an efficient railway from Hammersmith to Piccadilly, he, as one interested in Hammersmith, welcomed the proposal gladly. The Company would court any re-examination of this scheme, but they protested against the interests of a company, which had been blocking the way for the last forty years being allowed to stand in the way. A suggestion had been made that this new line was being run entirely by American capital, but that suggestion came with very bad grace from those who were interested in the District Railway. The London United Tramway Company had shown that they could serve the public well, and it had been said by a very high authority indeed that this company had shown the way by which the housing problem could be solved. The Great Eastern Railway had largely reduced their fares, with the result that the East End of London had considerably benefited. If a cheap service of fares, such as that the London United Electric Railways Company guaranteed in their Bill could be secured, it seemed to him that it would be a great benefit to the West End of London. He trusted the House would deal out to this company the treatment which they had dealt out to others, and allow the Bill to be read a second time.

* (10.40.) MR. JOHN BURNS said the hon. Member for York had asked whether this particular Bill violated any Parliamentary principle. Judging this Bill by the view which Parliament had hitherto taken of railway schemes, it did violate a sound Parliamentary principle. On what lines had Parliament hitherto proceeded whether with tramways, underground railways, or the great trunk lines? Parliament had definitely laid down that certain areas of territory should be handed over to certain companies for exploitation by themselves, and in too many cases to the inconvenience of the general public. He was sorry that railway companies had too frequently abused this rule and

privilege, and, except in instances where they had been threatened with rival companies and substantial competition, they had not shown that facility to put their house in order which he should have liked to have seen. This, however, would happen, so long as private enterprise was allowed in transit schemes. But they could have within a limited area, and particularly in a large city, too much competition of the same kind. He would illustrate by another argument. The law provided that a municipality had no right to promote a tramway within the same area as a company, and speaking broadly and generally, that rule operated to the advantage of the pioneer company which was compelled to sell out to the municipality in the event of the company not serving that particular area as prescribed by Parliament, and interpreted by locality. In this case they were not dealing with the competition of a rival company against the South Eastern or North Western or the London and Brighton Railways, in which the areas were so vast as to permit of effective competition. They were dealing with an entirely different state of things, namely, needless competition in a congested and limited area. The Metropolitan and District Railway had not served London as it should have done. This, however, was mainly due to the fact that Parliament had been influenced too much by the railway interests, particularly in London. He was not anxious to add to the number of British railway directors, whether they happened to be Yerkes or Morgans, from Canada or America, but he was anxious to be fair to existing companies. In this case there was in existence a company to which this right had been accorded, and though the right had not been so well used as it might have been, an improvement had been insisted on and the company had been given the power of electrification. He thought that Parliament ought to wait until this work was completed. Competition was proposed which could only be detrimental both to the Metropolitan and the Pierpont Morgan railways, and ultimately to the public. Parliament would, if it were wise, impose on the District and Metropolitan and Central London Railways the necessity of

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unifying their schemes, electrifying the whole, and giving London a co-ordinated system, using existing railways as a nucleus, and not introducing a third competitor, which would not give the public that advantage which the existing railway could and should by Parliament be made to do. Of the twenty-six electric and tube Bills introduced this session the House of Lords Committees and the House of Commons Committees had only allowed eleven to get through. The others had been abandoned or rejected because, like this bill, they duplicated existing routes, were financially unsound, or, generally speaking, subjected London to physical disturbance and vibration to which it ought not to be subjected. He believed that in rejecting many of the schemes the Committees had on the whole acted wisely, but why they should reject the Central London Railway Scheme, and at the same time admit the new schemes under Bills 6 and 8 he could not for the life of him understand. He objected to Bills 6 and 8 because there was a duplication where it was not needed. He believed the American line engineered by Mr. Pierpont Morgan was unnecessary, for this reason: that it gave competition where it was not needed. The other day Parliament had before it a mono-rail scheme from London to Brighton. The London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company successfully opposed that scheme because it would have created needless competition, and Parliament endorsed that view. The American scheme was for a line to run from Hammersmith to the City and on to Palmer's Green. There were already two lines from Hammersmith to the City, and the only reason for the third was that it was promoted by a wealthy syndicate which intended to dominate London transit. They had no guarantee that the American line would be carried on to Palmer's Green, but they had pledges from the Metropolitan and the District Companies that they would improve the service as a whole, apart from profitable sections. He did not attach too much importance to the concessions made by the Pierpont Morgan syndicate with respect to East-End districts, workmen's trains, and so forth. The ease with

which they had yielded was suspicious, and covered other intentions not yet disclosed. He agreed with the hon. Member for Peckham that this railway would cause needless competition. He believed also the scheme was financially unsound, that the American financiers, with the facility for which they were distinguished, would eventually unload, and that the British investor would have to stand the loss. He wanted to put this to the House—What if these three American syndicates made up their differences and amalgamated and took all these lines into their hands? The travelling public would be completely at their mercy. He objected altogether to Parliament's giving power to these syndicates to dominate a great part of the traffic of London. He had a further objection, and that was that through this system they would have introduced a condition of log-rolling and lobbying greater than existed now. He regarded the scheme from every point of view as likely to lead to a competition which would be wasteful, dangerous and extravagant. For these and other reasons he trusted the House of Commons would allow the existing companies to develop their systems, and not add to the difficulties of locomotion by giving an American syndicate power to do inefficiently what he believed the existing companies were capable of doing if Parliament would only grant them facilities.

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.) hoped the House would give the Bill a Second Reading. The speech to which they had listened seemed to be based on an objection, or rather a prejudice, to American capitalists. Considering what British capitalists had done in other countries, he thought that they ought to be the last to hold that idea. He was very much astonished that the hon. Member for Battersea, who was interested in housing matters, should want to reject this railway, which would be of enormous benefit towards solving the problem of the housing of the working classes. A portion of the proposed railway went from the City out northward, and by its means great districts which were at present undeveloped would be opened up and made accessible.

to the people in the congested districts of London. He did not propose to enter into the questions of finance and competition. They were not matters for discussion in the House of Commons. They could only be dealt with by a Committee upstairs, and he sincerely hoped the House would consent to give the Bill a Second Reading.

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton), speaking as a Member of the Joint Committee on Underground Railways, which sat last year, said that no scheme that was laid before them was considered better than the line running the whole way from Hammersmith to the City and from the City to the North-East of London. He hoped the House would think twice before refusing to give a Committee upstairs the opportunity of judging of the value of the scheme. He had heard no arguments from the hon. Gentleman who had moved the rejection of the Bill, or from the hon. Member for Battersea, which were not arguments that ought to be addressed to a Committee and not to that House, though he was surprised to hear the hon. Member for Battersea supporting the vested interests of the District Railway. The Joint-Committee considered this to be an excellent route, and he hoped the House would allow a Committee to settle the details of the matter.

(11.8.) LORD ALWYNE COMPTON (Bedfordshire, Biggleswade) desired to associate himself with what had fallen from the hon. Member for Battersea. He should like to state what the competition, to which reference had been made, amounted to. It would be a competition from Albert Gate, the whole way up Piccadilly, to Piccadilly Circus. That meant that for that mile and a half there would be two tube railways with stations opening out at the same places, competing for the same traffic. From Piccadilly Circus the proposed line moved down through the Metropolitan District Railway, and crossed it several times until it got to Bishopsgate Street, which was a matter of another two and a half miles. The question before the House was not one of detail; it was the broad question whether two railways were to be permitted by Parliament to compete unfairly with each other. If this line

was required let it go through another part, and not through the part where Parliament had already sanctioned a line. He was not financially interested in any tube or railway whatever. He maintained that it had not been shown that this Morgan railway was required, and even if it were required, he still maintained that it was wrong to depart from the principle established for years that Parliament did not sanction, under any circumstances whatever, unfair competition with railways which had been already sanctioned, and on which public money had been already expended.

* SIR LEWIS MACIVER (Edinburgh, W.) said he did not wish to express any opinion on the merits of the Bill before the House, but to point out the danger the House was in of being led away from its legitimate functions, sitting as a House, into trespassing on the ground of its own Committees. He had always understood that the question of unfair competition was one which the Committees were bound to consider; as indeed was nearly every other aspect of the Bill that had been discussed that evening. The hon. Member for Peckham commenced by saying that he would deal with the matter on broad principle, but the hon. Gentleman had never touched any broad principle at all. He dealt exclusively with points of detail. The noble Lord who had just sat down had professed a similar devotion to principle but his speech was never within a day's march of a second-reading principle. The only Member who had thrown down on the floor of the House a real question of principle was the hon. Member for Battersea, and that question resolved itself into the suggestion that the House should refuse to sanction any undertaking which was known, or suspected, to be of foreign origin. He would remind the House that no Committee upstairs would venture or be competent to decide so grave and novel a proposition, and although he expressed no opinion on the merits of the suggestion, he would remind the House that its adoption would very promptly assume an international aspect. For considering the vast amount of British capital invested in America

Mr. Peel.

and other foreign countries, retaliation in kind would be very simple, and would be inevitable.

MR. DAVID MORGAN (Essex, Walthamstow) said as the representative of a very large East End constituency he wished to say a word or two about this Bill. Although of the same name as the gentleman who had been mentioned as connected with the financial arrangements of the railway, he regretted to say they were not related. He had no interest whatever, directly or indirectly, in the scheme. He thought that the House had been led away to a certain extent on a false issue. The firm connected with the Bill was that of Peabody, and at the head of that firm was Sir Clinton Dawkins, whose

financial ability was well known to the House, and who would not put his name to any proposal unless he was prepared to uphold the undertaking. He sincerely trusted the House would send the Bill to the Committee upstairs, so that the whole merits or demerits should be considered. The scheme would for the first time provide an electric railway and trams which would enable Londoners to obtain cheap and rapid transit to the country, and thus promote the health of the working classes and their children.

(11.18.) Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 250 ; Noes, 69. (Division List No. 301.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Ambrose, Robert
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarras, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Bartley, George C. T.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhowmaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Duncan, J. Hastings
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fenwick, Charles
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby- (Salop)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wedsnesb'y)
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
Grenfell, William Henry
Griffith, Ellis J.
Groves, James Grimble

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harrington; Timothy
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Kewick, William
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leng, Sir John
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lloyd-George, David
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. (Cum. Penn.)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
London, W.
Macdonald, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah

M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Cann, James
 M'Crae, George
 M'Govern, T.
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W)
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 M'Killop W. (Sligo, North)
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Martin, Richard Biddulph
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouthsh.)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 Orr-Ewing, Charles Lindsay
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, George Wm. (Reading)
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor

Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Price, Robert John
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Randles, John S.
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Runciman, Walter
 Russell, T. W.
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley

Soares, Ernest J.
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stevenson, Francis S.
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Stroyan, John
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Wanklyn, James Leslie
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 Whitley, H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Woodhouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Young, Samuel
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Bull and Mr. Warner.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Chapman, Edward
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doughty, George
 Edwards, Frank
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Finch, George H.
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
 Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Galloway, William Johnson

Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid'd'x)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'r'y)
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hogg, Lindsay
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Labouchere, Henry
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Richards, Henry Charles

Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roysds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Banbury and Mr. John Burns.

Main Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

MR. PEEL, in moving the Instruction standing in his name, said that the reason why he moved it was that

this was the one portion of the line from Hammersmith to the City which was most valuable. The portion of the line from the City to the North of London was less valuable. What he was afraid of was that the Committee might strike out the most valuable portion of

the line and leave the least valuable portion in the lurch. If they read the evidence in the Report of the Lords' Committee it would be seen that one of the great inducements for sanctioning the Bill was to get a line from the City to the North of London. His object was to secure that the whole line should be built, but the method by which this should be secured he would leave to the Committee upstairs.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the London United Electric Railways Bill [Lords] to take security from the undertakers for the completion of the whole scheme of railways comprised in the Bill, either by making the rights of the undertakers under the Bills conditional upon the due performance of their whole undertaking or otherwise, as the Committee may think fit.—(Mr. Peel.)

NORTH-WEST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [LORDS] (BY ORDER).

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY said that he had on the Paper a Motion, "That no Metropolitan Tube Railway Bill will be satisfactory to this House which fails to give effect to the Report of the Joint Committee of Lords and Commons on Underground Railways, 1901, recommending a comprehensive scheme for the relief of the congested districts of the Metropolis and provision for the relief of the most densely populated working-class districts in London now inadequately served." He wished to say that since that Motion had been put on the Paper the promoters of the Bill had supplied information to those interested in this matter, and who were associated with him, that this line would be closely linked up with all the other connected lines in London. He would, therefore, not make his Motion.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

PICCADILLY, CITY, AND NORTH-EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Piccadilly, City, and North-East London Railway Bill

[Lords] to take security from the undertakers for the completion of the whole scheme of railways comprised in the Bill, either by making the rights of the undertakers under the Bills conditional upon the due performance of their whole undertaking or otherwise, as the Committee may think fit.—(Mr. Peel.)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

(11.36.) MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said that surely the right hon. Gentleman did not propose to move the Second Reading of the Bill without any explanation. In all his experience, he never heard of a more extraordinary course being taken than to move the Second Reading of such a Bill without any explanation whatever.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said the Chief Secretary was to have moved the Second Reading of the Bill, but he was not present at the moment. The Bill had been fully explained.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said he was glad the Chief Secretary was now present. He thought it was scarcely respectful to the House, if the Government really intended to pass the Bill, that it should be moved without any explanation whatever. If the Chief Secretary were ready to make an explanation, well and good; if not, the Bill ought to be postponed.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover) said he explained the nature of the Bill on the First Reading, and was now prepared to hear the observations of the hon. Member, or any other hon. Member, on it, and to reply to any reasons which might be urged for not passing the Second Reading. He understood that the Bill was put down to suit the convenience of the hon. Baronet the Member for North Wexford, who was particularly interested in it.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.) said they really knew nothing about the Bill. It would be most unsatisfactory to commence its discussion at that hour, and the proper course would be to adjourn the debate. He begged to move that the debate be now adjourned.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."
—(*Mr. Flynn.*)

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he would regret if the debate had to be adjourned, because the Bill was one that ought to pass. It was perfectly absurd, however, that the Irish Members should be expected to commence a discussion of a Bill of twenty Clauses, to remedy defects in a great Act of Parliament, at such an hour. He had carefully examined the Bill, and he thought that it was calculated to correct many defects in the working of the Act. The Chief Secretary said that he had explained the Bill on the First Reading; but the right hon. Gentleman had done nothing of the kind. He only gave an outline of the measure.

MR. WYNDHAM said he was now awaiting the observations of the hon. Member, or of any other hon. Member, upon it.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that was not fair treatment for an Irish Bill. Either the House was able to legislate for Irish business, or it was not. He maintained it was; and he would be no party to allowing the Government, or anyone else, to say it was not. That was the very best lesson that the Government could give to the people of Ireland, that legislation for Ireland was impossible in the House of Commons. He did not believe that it was; but if the House considered it was fair treatment for an Irish Bill, on such a complicated subject, to be brought on at a quarter to twelve o'clock, he did not know what was to be done with Irish legislation at all. He repeated that, speaking generally, the Bill ought to pass, but it was a Bill which ought to be discussed and considered, and it contained three or four Clauses on which he intended to raise very serious questions. He thought there was a good case for the Motion for the Adjournment.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said he wished to make a suggestion to the House. Many of the Clauses in the Bill were of very considerable importance to counties in which he was interested. For instance, Clause 3 was introduced, to a large extent, in answer to representations made by the District Council to which he belonged. That Clause would remove a very general inconvenience. Then Clause 11, which empowered a County Council to hold half-yearly meetings, was introduced as part of an agreement between his County Council and the Government last year. His suggestion was, that if the Government would give an assurance that some reasonable time would be given to discussion of the Bill in Committee, the Second Reading should now be taken on that understanding.

MR. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) said that some of the provisions of the Bill would completely upset the local authorities. One Clause enabled the auditor of the Local Government Board, at any time and at his own discretion, to examine the accounts of the local Councils, and to subject any official who did not put himself at his disposal, at any hour or any period of the year, to a fine of £5. For his part he would not consent to the local authorities being placed at the disposal of the auditor of the Local Government Board.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.) said the Bill was essentially a Bill for discussion in Committee, as no great principle was raised in it. He hoped the hon. Member would not press his Motion. Neither the House nor the Irish Members on either side would benefit by a debate on the Second Reading.

MR. WYNDHAM said he wished to say that no one was more surprised than he was when the Bill came on. The Bill, of course, demanded consideration and discussion in the House. When he said that he had made a statement on the First Reading he was speaking by the book; and he held that, as the introducer of the Bill, he could not now get up and make a long speech on the Second Reading without hearing the

views of hon. Gentlemen. What he said on the First Reading was that the Bill was to remedy certain defects and hindrances which had been revealed in the working of the Local Government (Ireland) Act. He was really disposed to believe that they could debate the Bill better in Committee than on Second Reading; and he doubted whether a Second Reading debate would be of any assistance.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said the views he held on the Bill were very much the same as the views of his hon. friend the Member for North Wexford. Some of the provisions of the Bill would undoubtedly be of a valuable character in certain districts in Ireland, and he was not to be taken as anxious to throw any obstruction in the way of the Bill, though, speaking generally, it was a most inadequate attempt to remedy defects in the existing system. When the Attorney General formally moved the Second Reading of the Bill, he protested against the way in which the Government attempted Irish business in Parliament. The position of affairs was this. A great measure of local government had been passed for Ireland; numerous defects had been exposed in the working of the Act; the Government proposed a Bill of twenty clauses to amend the Act; that Bill was brought in at twenty minutes to twelve o'clock; its Second Reading was moved without a single word of explanation; and then the Chief Secretary said he did not intend to make any speech in proposing the Second Reading. It was true that when the right hon. Gentleman introduced the Bill under the Ten Minutes Rule, he spoke for a few minutes on the general terms of the Bill. That was not a proper way of dealing with Irish questions, and he intervened to protest against it. If this House insisted on arrogating to itself the right to legislate for Ireland, Bills ought to be properly explained; and he thought it was not respectful, either to the House or to the Irish Members, that the present Bill should be brought in in such a way. At the same time, he thought there was a good deal in what the right hon. Gentleman had said that time might more usefully be spent in discussing the Bill in

Committee than on the Second Reading; and if the right hon. Gentleman would give an undertaking that adequate time would be given at a proper period for the discussion of the Committee stage, he would be ready to let the Second Reading pass now, having made his protest against the manner in which the Second Reading was proposed. It was necessary, however, that they should have a clear understanding in the matter. It would not do to bring on the Committee stage at the fag end of some sitting, when other business had been disposed of sooner than was expected. If such an undertaking were not given, they could not allow the Second Reading to pass unchallenged. He wished to say, with reference to that Bill, and other Irish Bills, that he would be no party to allowing them to pass *sub silentio*.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I am responsible, at all events indirectly, for the fact that this Bill has come on, unexpectedly, at such a late hour. As the House is aware, certain incidents have happened in connection with the Education Bill during the afternoon sitting, which prevented that Bill being taken at the evening sitting. I can assure hon. Gentlemen that it was always intended that there should be an opportunity for discussing the Bill now before the House. The hon. Gentleman asks whether I cannot promise adequate time. I will promise that the Committee stage of the Bill will be put down as the first Order on the day on which it is to be taken.

MR. MACARTNEY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would undertake that the present Bill, and other Irish Bills, should not be taken at any sitting of the House without appearing on the Order Paper for that sitting.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR assented.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill read a second time, and committed for Tuesday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND)
AMENDMENT (No. 2) BILL.

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [7th April], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

MR. CALDWELL said he could not imagine what induced the Government to bring forward this Bill at three minutes to midnight. The Bill established a principle which had never been established before, so far as grants of public money were concerned. The Lord Advocate would also find that the Bill was as little favoured on the other side of the House as it was on that. The Bill dealt with grants under the Local Government Act of 1889. They were two very important grants—a grant of £20,000 a year, which was given as a medical grant to the local authorities; and also a grant of about £90,000, which was given as a lunacy grant to the Parochial Boards. The Act of Parliament laid down in specific terms how the money under those grants was to be distributed, and it was not in the power of any Department to alter the conditions. The Bill, if it proposed anything at all, proposed that the Local Government Board should have the power of issuing from time to time—

It being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed tomorrow.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL

Order read for resuming adjourned debate on Motion for committal to the Standing Committee on Trade, &c. [9th April.]

Objection being taken,

MR. GALLOWAY (Manchester, S.W.) said he did not know if the hon. Member was aware that the Bill was similar to a Bill which had been already referred to the Grand Committee on Trade, and it would be a great convenience if the Grand

Committee could consider both Bills at the same time. The Motion was merely to facilitate the proceedings of the Committee.

Debate further adjourned till Monday next.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND)
[CONTRIBUTIONS].

Considered in Committee

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of money to be provided by Parliament, of contributions towards the custody, industrial training, elementary education, and meals of children sent by an order of a Court (other than an attendance order) to a certified Day Industrial School, of sums not exceeding one shilling per head per week, and in the case of children without an order of the Court of a sum not exceeding sixpence a week, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to provide for the further establishment of Day Industrial Schools in Ireland.—
(Mr. Wyndham.)

Resolution to be reported tomorrow.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR WILLIAM WALROND (Devonshire, Tiverton) in moving the adjournment of the House, said that the right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury stated at the evening adjournment that he would inform the House later what Supply would be taken tomorrow. At the afternoon sitting, the War Office Vote and Medical Vote would be taken; and at the evening sitting the Votes for the Militia and the Yeomanry.

Adjourned at ten minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 17th July, 1902.

The LORD ORANMORE and BROWNE took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3).

Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provisional Order.

The same were ordered to lie upon the Table.

RICHMOND HILL (PRESERVATION OF VIEW) BILL.

Judges' Report received, and ordered to lie upon the Table.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEAST RAILWAY BILL.

WHITECHAPEL AND BOW RAILWAY BILL.

ENGLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 14th March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

BRYNMAWR AND WESTERN VALLEYS RAILWAY (VESTING) BILL.

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL. [H.L.]

A Bill to amend the borrowing provisions of the Electric Lighting Act, 1862, and the Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, was presented by the Lord Balfour; read 1^a; to be printed; and to be read 2^a on Tuesday next. (No. 152.)

GLASGOW AND SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; to be printed and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2^a. (The Lord Balfour)—and reported from the Committee. (No. 154.)

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order). Amendments made. Standing Committee negatived. Report of Amendments to be received tomorrow.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.

Committee of the Whole House (which stands appointed for this day) put off to Monday next.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (SUBWAYS AND TRAMWAYS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

The order made on the 3rd instant appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bills, discharged.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (SUBWAYS AND TRAMWAYS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills (viz.)—

E. Danbigh,
E. Yarborough,
L. Muskerry,
L. Brassey (Chairman),
L. Ludlow;

agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Monday next at twelve o'clock; and all

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petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Trade Reports, Annual Series—

- No. 2854. Turkey (Smyrna);
- No. 2855. France (Marseilles);
- No. 2856. Spain (Barcelona).

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Despatch by General Lord Kitchener, dated 1st June, 1902, relative to military operations in South Africa.

RAILWAYS.

General Report to the Board of Trade on the capital, traffic, and expenditure of the railway companies of the United Kingdom, for the year 1901.

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).

Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1902.

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION OF GUN-POWDER ON REGISTERED PREMISES AT MARPLE, NEAR STOCKPORT).

Report to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, on the circumstances attending an explosion of gunpowder which took place on the registered premises of Messrs. James Lee and Sons, New Road, Marple, on the 26th April, 1902.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

GAS COMPANIES (METROPOLIS).

Accounts of the Metropolitan Gas Companies for the year 1901.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Additional Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, dated 4th July, 1902.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts presented of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1901, and of the sums received and paid by the National Debt Commissioners on account of the Fund for the Post Office Savings Bank in the same year.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (IRELAND) BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 153.)

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES) (IRELAND) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order); further Amendments made; Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow, and to be printed as amended. (No. 155.)

PAUPER CHILDREN (IRELAND) BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL. [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons with the consequential Amendment made by the Lords to the Amendments made by the Commons, agreed to.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR — VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES—LORD ROBERTS'S REPLY.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I have received the following letter from Field-Marshal Earl Roberts, K.G., Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces, in return to the thanks of this House, and to the Resolutions of June 5th last, communicated to him in obedience to the order of this House, viz.:—

“War Office, July 15th, 1902.

“My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter forwarding to me Resolutions passed by the House of Lords thanking His Majesty's forces by land and sea for their gallant and distinguished services during the late war in South Africa.

“I shall esteem it a great privilege to convey to the forces I have the honour to command this expression by the House of Lords of its appreciation of the work they have accomplished in South Africa, which I am confident they will highly value. The message of sympathy with relatives of the fallen contained in the Resolution will, I am sure, be gratefully received by them, not only as a

mark of the kind feeling which prompted it, but as a recognition of the services rendered to their country by those whom they have lost.

"I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most humble, obedient servant,
"Roberts, F.M."

The letter was ordered to be entered on the Journals.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (The MARQUESS of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, I do not think that many words are necessary to commend this Bill to the favourable consideration of the House. Its object is to enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire two sites in the County of London, for the purpose of erecting post-offices thereon. The Bill is not an innovation, but is similar in character to those measures which have been introduced in previous years by my predecessors. It was referred to a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and passed through that House with no alteration beyond the insertion of a Clause providing that nothing in the Act should affect any rights or jurisdiction of the London County Council or any Metropolitan Borough in relation to any sewers, drains, or water-courses. If the Bill is read a second time today it will be referred to a Committee over which the noble Earl the Chairman of Committees presides, and will then come before a Committee of the whole House. There are certain details in regard to the sites proposed to be taken with which I do not think I need weary your Lordships, but if any question is asked I shall be glad to give an answer.

Bill read 2^a (according to order), and committed.

SHOP CLUBS BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order).

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): I have an Amendment to Clause 7, which relates to a question of machinery, and is not conceived in any hostile spirit to the Bill. The facts are these. In this Bill the word "registrar" occurs in more than one clause. That is, of course, the

Registrar of Friendly Societies; but the Bill is not made to read in connection with the Friendly Societies Act, 1896. In that Act there is a definition of the "Registrar" for England, Scotland, and Ireland, and both for Scotland and Ireland he is defined in each case as the Assistant Registrar who is located in the respective capitals. So far as Scotland is concerned, I am advised that the Amendment is necessary, and I daresay those interested in the matter, if they will look into it, will find that it is expedient to apply the Bill to Ireland in the same way.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 7, page 2, line 32, after 'branch,' to insert 'and in application to Scotland the word "registrar" means the registrar as defined in that Act.'"—(Lord Balfour of Burleigh.)

On question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow, and to be printed as amended (No. 156).

MILITARY EDUCATION.

* **LORD MONKSWELL:** My Lords, I rise, in accordance with the notice standing in my name on your Lordships' Paper, to call attention to the Report of the Committee on Military Education, to ask His Majesty's Government what steps they propose to take to carry the recommendations of the Committee into effect, and to move that in the opinion of this House immediate steps should be taken with a view to remedy the deplorable state of things disclosed in the Report, and in particular that an Inspector-General of Military Education, with an adequate staff, should be at once appointed in accordance with the recommendations of the Report. Three months ago the public were very disagreeably startled by the Report of the Committee appointed by His Majesty's Government to inquire into this subject. The Report, as is well known, condemned in scathing terms the present system of military education. I do not want to be unduly pessimistic, nor to use language of exaggeration. I am perfectly aware that successive Governments have done their best to deal with this subject, and I say at once that I think the results of the labours of the Committees and Commissions that have sat and reported on the subject have not been altogether fruitless.

There can be no doubt that the subject of military education has made much progress within the last forty or fifty years. Things were very different from what they are now in the time of what one of the witnesses described as the early Victorian Major, who knew nothing himself, and did not see why anybody else should know anything. But just now the subject is in a backwater. I have received a letter today from perhaps the most distinguished of Army coaches, who writes to say, that at this moment, owing to the inertia of the War Office, things are worse than ever. He states that there is no military training worthy of the name at Aldershot or at any other station; that the ordinary general education of officers is going from bad to worse, and that it is a public scandal that young officers sent to India have to be taught arithmetic by the regimental schoolmasters. I venture to think that everybody will agree that the Report of the Committee on military education is worthy of the respect and attention of the public and of this House. The Committee was presided over by a Cabinet Minister—Mr. AKERS DOUGLAS. There were six other members on the Committee, three of whom were civilians. Of the three civilians, two—Dr. WARRE and Mr. F. W. WALKER—are headmasters of great public schools, viz., Eton and St. Pauls, the other being Sir MICHAEL F. FOSTER, a distinguished scientist and a Member of Parliament. The other three members were the present Governor of the Royal Military Academy (Major General Jelf), Captain A. H. LEA, M.P., and Lieutenant-Colonel F. HAMMERSLEY, who are all well-known educational experts. There are two aspects of military education—education as regards the efficiency of the Army, and education as regards the status of the officer at home and abroad. I am perfectly ready to admit that in the late war, as in previous wars, it has been shown that it is quite possible for an officer to be extremely illiterate and yet an excellent soldier. But we have not only to look at military efficiency. If the officers of the British Army have not the ordinary education of an English gentleman, their status in this country and in other countries will be greatly reduced. I have met with men not Pedants nor particularly addicted to

Lord Monkswell.

culture who have spoken in contemptuous terms of officers in the Army because they are so extremely ignorant. In this connection I should like to say that the chief complaint on the score of education, which is repeated over and over again in the evidence—and it is an extremely important one from a military point of view—is that a very large number of officers are unable to write an intelligent report.

THE EARL OF CORK: Many of them cannot even write a letter.

*LORD MONKSWELL: At all events a large number of them cannot write a report which is intelligible. That is very serious from the point of view of military efficiency. At the present time it is more than ever necessary that a British officer should be sufficiently intelligent—I do not say that it is absolutely necessary that he should know much about grammar—but that he should have sufficient powers of observation and be sufficiently intelligent and sufficiently master of the English language to write a report that can be understood by those to whom it is sent. In former days, under the old system of artillery and rifles of very short range, the commander in the field of battle had a great many of the operations under his own immediate supervision, and was not so dependant on reports from officers, as he is now, when, owing to the vast range of artillery and rifles, it is impossible for a commander to know all that is going on. The one bright spot in the Committee's Report is the evidence of the excellence of the officers who come from the Universities. Probably the reason why these officers are so popular in military circles is that they have that general education of an English gentleman which, I am sorry to say, some officers from Sandhurst appear to lack. The Committee mention in their Report what they consider to be the principal cause of this ignorance, and it is quite sufficient to account for everything. They state that there is absolutely no incentive to learning at Sandhurst. It seems to me, as a civilian, to be a perfectly astounding state of things that absolutely no notice is taken of superior merit in the various examinations at Sandhurst. We all know that there is an entrance examination for Sandhurst,

that there is an examination out of Sandhurst, and also examinations to qualify for promotion; but the unanimous verdict of the service members who were witnesses before this Committee was that absolutely no account whatever is taken of whether a man just scrapes through his examination or passes with distinction. The remedy proposed by the Committee is promotion by selection in all ranks of the Army, but the Commander-in-Chief takes a different view, and thinks that in the lower ranks promotion should be by seniority. That is a very grave divergence of opinion. I am not at all sure, speaking for myself, that the Commander-in-Chief is not right if human nature is not equal to the task of honest selection by merit. Not very long ago the Secretary of State for War said he would never be influenced in the slightest extent by social considerations. Those are brave words, and I hope the Secretary of State will always act up to them, but is he quite certain that other people will never be influenced by such considerations? It all depends upon this: Does a system of promotion by selection mean promotion by merit or promotion by favouritism? If it means promotion by favouritism, then promotion by favouritism tempered by seniority is better than promotion by favouritism tempered by nothing at all. I put it to noble Lords opposite whether it is not possible that there should be a working compromise between the view of the Commander-in-Chief and the view of the Committee on that extremely important point? Is it not possible to introduce into the Army the system that works so well in the Navy, by which officers who pass well out of the "Britannia," and also well in the examination for the rank of lieutenant, gain automatically about three years' seniority over those who are last on the list, without any suspicion of favouritism at all? I suggest that perhaps that compromise might be a solution of this very great difficulty.

Now, as to the terms of my Motion. The Government will not deny that the state of things, as disclosed by the Report, is deplorable. To show how deplorable that state of things is, I propose to make a few comments on the Report and the evidence. I do not propose to go into the evidence as to Woolwich, because I think Woolwich has come out of the ordeal

fairly well; but there are certain considerations which apply both to Woolwich and to Sandhurst. The Committee report that cadets, having no incentive to learn, join more ignorant than they ought to be, and that when they are officers they have no inducement to keep up even the little knowledge they ever possessed. The words of the Committee in paragraph 93 of the Report are—

"The Committee regret to report that the general condition of education at the Royal Military College is far from satisfactory. In the first place, the cadets cannot be expected to derive much benefit from their instruction at Sandhurst, when it is clearly established that they have absolutely no inducement to work. This inducement is not afforded by the number of marks necessary to qualify for a commission, nor by the fact that those who fail to reach the low qualifying standard demanded, are excluded from the Army. Indeed, there is too much reason to fear that even those cadets who fail to attain this standard have been commissioned none the less."

General Sir Ian Hamilton was interrogated by the Committee as to the keenness of the Sandhurst cadets, and he was asked—

"Have you found in your experience in South Africa that there is a tendency among young officers, after they have joined their unit and have got their commission, and passed off Barrack Square, to think there is nothing more to do for a good many years and to take it easy?"

Sir Ian Hamilton replied—

"There is a very lax standard in that way; it is perfectly extraordinary. I was at Hythe the other day, and the Commandant told me what a pleasure it was to him to have a Volunteer and Yeomanry class there. After his lecture the officers would crowd round him and argue and dispute on points, and show the very greatest interest; whereas, on the other hand, Sandhurst boys who had been there did not at all display this interest, and the young officers in the regular Army were chiefly concerned in thinking very much of when the afternoon train went up to London."

Sir George Clarke was questioned by Captain Lee on the subject, and he replied that—

"A naval sub-lieutenant, if he gets at his examination a certain number of stars—that is, first class in certain subjects—is a made man from that time, and he knows it; but as to the Army Promotion Examination, if you scrape through it does not matter whether you do so by the skin of your teeth or whether you get honours. I have never heard of its making the slightest difference."

The evidence of Major Edwards, R.E., of the Intelligence Department, was to the same effect. He said—

"Officers are selected for appointments for various reasons, but not on account of any previous record to be found in papers."

The Governor of Sandhurst, Sir E. Markham, said that he had known the case of a cadet removed for misconduct by the Commander-in-Chief being gazetted in five weeks to the Militia and joining the Cavalry within a year. Colonel Lonsdale Hall, a well-known authority on the subject of tactics, aid—

"There is no incentive to the boy at Sandhurst to work, absolutely no incentive of any kind whatever."

With regard to the complaint that there is no inducement to keep up knowledge after joining the Army, I would quote from the evidence of that well-known Army Coach, Lieut.-Col. Moores. He said that his pupils often came to him after they had been some time in the Army, and he was greatly astonished at their want of knowledge in military subjects. Their excuses generally for this falling off had, he said, been—

"I have never looked at a military work or at the subjects since I joined the regular Army so many years ago; I have forgotten all the military subjects I knew on joining; no person has ever encouraged me to keep up my knowledge of the subjects, and, in fact, if I were to read or talk about reconnaissance, or field work, or strategy, or military history, the senior officers would not be pleased with me, so I fell into the groove of doing only what the others did, which generally was playing billiards or cards, or smoking cigarettes or reading, or talking in the mess or quarters, for some hours daily when not on parade or at the orderly room."

Colonel Moores gave an instance. He said—

"One officer, who made over 1900 marks, and was the second or third from the top of the list at the Militia Competitive Examination about five years ago, came to me for tuition just before the Boer War to enable him to pass the examination for promotion, and his excuse was: 'I have forgotten all the subjects which you taught me so thoroughly; I am in the old groove again, forgetting all I should retain; I wish we had a system of regular professional work. I suppose I shall have to ask your aid again later on to be crammed for the rank of Major.'"

Colonel Lawley, who is in command of a cavalry regiment, said that he knew of a cavalry officer who had been eight years in the service, and had never during the whole of that time had a favourable report, and yet he still remained in the service. If the cadets have no incentive

to learn, it is equally true that the instructors have absolutely no incentive to teach. On that point the Committee say—

"The weight of evidence, however, leads to the conclusion that an instructional appointment is regarded in the Army generally as a shelf on which an officer may spend a few years comfortably, avoiding the monotonous routine of life in barracks and the constant changes of station, which constitute such a serious tax upon the pocket of the married officer."

The Committee go on to say that the year's probation, which every instructor is supposed to undergo, is practically a farce. They state that—

"In the replies to a series of questions submitted to the Governor by the Committee will be found, in the reply to question 21, the statement that it has never been necessary in recent years to cancel such an appointment or to revert an officer to his regiment at the end of his year's probation. The Committee are, however, unable to share in the Governor's satisfaction with this fact, or with the present method of selecting instructors as described in his evidence."

I can understand that to instructors who merely instruct to obtain a livelihood, and not because they have any special aptitude for teaching, or wish to identify themselves with the teaching profession, the life may be tolerable; but I cannot imagine anything more disheartening than the position of instructors whose duty it is to instruct young men animated by no desire to learn, and who, if by any chance they are successful in making them learn, get no credit for the result. The position of the Assistant-Commandant at Sandhurst would also appear to be by no means a bed of roses, for though he works exceedingly hard he is obliged to administer a system of which he entirely disapproves. He was questioned, for instance, about the system of teaching cadets to ride. I am not going into the question whether the present system of teaching is a good one or a bad one, but it is condemned by the Assistant-Commandant as an iniquitous system and most injudicious. This does not matter very much, for, as a matter of fact, the cadets have hardly any riding at all at Sandhurst. In the whole course, which has now been cut down to a year, the cadet is only about thirty-five hours in the saddle as contrasted with an hour daily spent in barrack square close-order drill. One

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would suppose that the military authorities would see that good text-books were provided, but the text-books are universally condemned, and Captain Lee, a member of the Committee, observed that the text-book on topography was "probably one of the worst books of its kind in the world."

Then the Committee comment on rather a singular circumstance connected with the training of cadets. They say in paragraph 101—

"As an illustration of the system pursued, it appears that the cadets are required to pipe-clay their own buff waistbelts, but that their rifles are cleaned for them. This is remarkable, for while a cadet might acquire a familiarity with the mechanism of the rifle from being required to clean it, the educational value of pipe-claying a belt is extremely slight."

Again, my Lords, going back to paragraph 99, the Committee express surprise at learning that the cadets are not instructed in either musketry or revolver shooting at Sandhurst, though range accommodation is available in the immediate neighbourhood. They add—

"The Committee are still more surprised to learn that such cadets as were able to find time to shoot have to join a club and pay a subscription of £1 a term. This may be contrasted with the system at Woolwich, where, though musketry is impossible owing to there being no range, all cadets are required to shoot with the revolver, and are put through a regular course and provided with free ammunition."

There is another matter with which the Committee are not particularly pleased, and that is the question of tipping the servants, about which we heard something the other day. The system of giving gratuities I attribute to the payment of insufficient wages to the servants, and the authorities have set their faces against a system of tipping which they themselves were responsible for setting up. At Woolwich the cadets are told that they must not tip the servants, but it is a well-known fact that they do tip them, and there the matter ends. But with regard to Sandhurst, the authorities have taken a further and a very foolish step. They put before the cadets every month lithographed forms, which they are required to sign, declaring that they have not tipped the servants. The appreciation which the cadets entertain for this document is shown by the fact that they call the paper the "monthly

lie." With regard to this "monthly lie," I should like to quote what Dr. Warre said—

"The point I want to urge is, that there being things of that sort, gives an opportunity for the less scrupulous to formulate a habit which becomes a habit of mind and tradition, and it seems to me it does go dead against the sense of honour and the sense of right. If it is the case, as we have certain reason to believe, that these certificates are not regarded by the cadets as a very serious thing, and are often signed *pro forma*, then it seems as if it was allowing to grow up in the mind of a young fellow who is to be an officer a very queer notion of honour and right."

The whole matter is summed up in the following short sentences in paragraph 131 of the Committee's Report—

"The Committee are compelled to report that the evidence laid before them has brought out in the strongest light the grave fact that the military education of the junior officers in the Army is in a most unsatisfactory condition. . . . By no part of the evidence laid before them have the Committee been more impressed than by that which shows, in the clearest manner, the prevalence among the junior commissioned ranks of a lack of technical knowledge and skill, and of any wish to study the science and master the art of their profession."

I have carefully gone through all the evidence with a view to finding out whether the scathing Report of the Committee is justified or not. I need not have given myself that trouble; it would have been sufficient to read the evidence of the Commander-in-Chief, who endorses the principal complaints made in the Report, though he differs as to the remedy. In reply to Question No. 8431, the Commander-in-Chief said—

"I think the general standard of education is not sufficiently high in the Army."

Replying to Question No. 8434, he said—

"Officers when they join very often are unable to make a satisfactory report."

Questioned as to the text-books (Question No. 8522), the Commander-in-Chief expressed the opinion that—

"The text books are susceptible of improvement."

Asked in Question No. 8529 whether it was the fact that an officer had no inducement to work, and, if he wanted to work, had no opportunity of getting at books, the Commander-in-Chief replied, "That is true." Can there be a more

scathing condemnation of the present state of things than that? I quite admit that the responsibility falls to some extent upon previous Governments as well as upon the present Government, but though I may be prejudiced, I think that the present Government are the chief sinners in this matter. Dr.

Maguire, the great Army coach, when he was examined, said that military education had been extremely bad since 1897. He drew a great distinction between military education before and after somewhere about that date. I say that the Government were guilty of a retrograde step when, in 1898, the Militia qualifying marks were reduced from 5,000 to 4,500, subsequently increased to 4,600. Since 1895 extra pay for languages has been greatly reduced; and in 1899, before the war, it was decided to reduce the course at Sandhurst from eighteen months to twelve months, and the office of Director General of Military Education, which had existed since 1869, was abolished. Without going into idle recriminations, I think I may be allowed to point out that in July, 1898, I remonstrated against this course, and was told that the abolition of this office was only experimental, and that the experiment would be carefully watched. Considering the deterioration of military education during the last four years while this experiment was being carefully watched, I should have thought that His Majesty's Government might have come to some decision in the matter, even before the Committee reported. I need scarcely say that my remonstrance was justified by the Report of the Committee, and also by the evidence on which the Report was based. I cannot understand how it is that the Government have allowed three months to elapse since the publication of the Report without taking the first and most necessary preliminary step of appointing a high official, with an adequate staff, to supervise the military education of the country. If they are not going to appoint a Director General or an Inspector General of Military Education, the Government will not only be flouting the Report of their own Committee—a thing they have done before—but they will be flouting

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the strongly expressed opinion of the Commander-in-Chief himself, who condemns the present system of handing over the whole supervision of military education to a Colonel with £800 a year. In answer to Question No. 8509, the Commander-in-Chief explained that there used to be a Director General of Military Education, and added—

"A few years ago it was altered and put under the Military Secretary's Department with an Assistant Military Secretary for Education. I do not think it is satisfactory."

Further questioned, the Commander-in-Chief said (Question No. 8510) that the Military Secretary had absolutely no time to supervise his subordinate, and added—

"I do not know why it was ever put in the Military Secretary's Department. I agree with you (Mr. Abercrombie Douglas) that he ought to be an officer acting on his own responsibility and of sufficient standing really to supervise education."

The Commander-in-Chief also expressed the opinion that the Inspector General must have Assistant Inspectors. The Committee suggest an Advisory Board. I have not made any reference to an Advisory Board in my motion, because I think the first thing to do is to get your Inspector General, and then consult him with regard to the Advisory Board. I cannot understand how, in the face of this evidence, the Government can hesitate for a moment to make this appointment. In Paragraph 141, the Committee say—

"The Committee must lay stress on the vital importance of making one central authority responsible for the general supervision of the military education of the officers of the Army. The Committee would desire to see the office of Director General of Military Education revived, though they would prefer that this officer should bear the title of Inspector General of Military Education."

I do not think I am unreasonable. I do not suggest that the Government should by this time have formulated a complete scheme. All I ask is, that the Government will at once take the one absolutely essential preliminary step in the reform of military education, and appoint someone to supervise that education. If anything is to be done, there must be some great official responsible, who, in colloquial language, can be hanged if anything goes wrong. No one is now responsible, and it is unsatisfactory and unfair to hang a subordinate.

The Military Secretary has been nominally responsible for four years. But how can we place the responsibility on him when the Commander-in-Chief says that the Military Secretary has not a moment to spare for educational duties? Many of your Lordships are soldiers now, many have been soldiers, and every noble Lord takes a great interest in military education; and if the Government is against me, I appeal to this House, not in the interests of Party but in the interests of the Army and of the Empire, to affirm that this state of things shall go on no longer, and that the recommendations of the Committee and of the Commander-in-Chief shall prevail.

Moved, "To resolve that, in the opinion of this House, immediate steps should be taken with a view to remedy the deplorable state of things disclosed in the Report of the Committee on Military Education, and in particular that an Inspector General of Military Education, with an adequate staff, should be at once appointed in accordance with the recommendation of the Report."—(*Lord Monckswell*.)

***LORD HARRIS:** My Lords, having had similar experience to that of the noble Lord as Under Secretary for War, I desire to offer a few remarks upon the Report of this Committee. In the first place, I cordially agree with that part of the noble Lord's speech in which he commends in very high terms the work of the Committee and the time and attention they gave to the subject. Having had some experience of the trouble of getting evidence by Departmental Committees, I am sure your Lordships ought to be most grateful to this Committee for the immense time they gave to the subject and the very great pains they took to collect all available evidence. But I am afraid I cannot agree with the final conclusion to which the noble Lord has arrived. Having studied the Report and the evidence, he arrives at the conclusion that what he describes as a deplorable state of affairs can be remedied by the appointment of an Inspector General of Military Education. That is where I cannot agree with him. If he will eliminate the last sentence with reference to

the immediate appointment of an Inspector General, I think I can agree with his Resolution. I quite concur with him that the present state of things is deplorable, but I do not think it is going to be remedied by the appointment of an Inspector General. I have had experience of this matter, and I must have been less fortunate than the noble Lord opposite, for I cannot conceive of such an Inspector General as I remember doing much to improve the Military Education of the Army. Of course, it depends on the man, and if you can find the right man, I dare say considerable improvement could be introduced in many ways, which I will indicate directly. But when a post has been created, there is always a tendency to put an officer into it who has done good service of some kind or another, and not necessarily the man who is most capable of carrying out the duties of that office. After the experience which I personally had, it would be impossible for me to agree that the first thing that is necessary is to appoint an Inspector General. I think myself that "Director General" would be the more appropriate title, because at the present moment I do not know what there is to inspect.

The Report of this Committee deals with two entirely different subjects—with the education of the young gentleman who is going to adopt the Army as his profession, and with his education at one or two Military Institutions like Sandhurst or Woolwich which precedes his getting his commission. It also deals—and this is more important still—with the education of the officer after he has obtained his commission. What is the Inspector General going to inspect with regard to that? I think the noble Lord could easily count on his fingers the number of educational establishments in the Army for young officers. I suppose that nearly every officer goes to Hythe, that every Artillery officer goes to Shoeburyness, and every Engineering officer to the School at Chatham. There are also the signalling classes, but there is not room at those classes for all the officers of the Army. As regards Chatham and Woolwich, they are, of course, technical schools. There is nothing similar for the line officer, or the cavalry officer, to enable him to carry on

his education after he has got into the Army. That is, I submit, why it would be difficult for an inspector-general to find anything to inspect, and therefore I think the title of director-general is more appropriate. The noble Lord referred to the fact that University candidates are more appreciated because they show sounder education; but then, they have had a longer education before they go into the Army. They are older men, for one thing, and they have had greater opportunities of study, and I should think that the general effect of a University education is also more likely to encourage them to work at their profession than what we know to be the case at Sandhurst. That is merely an opinion; but Sir Evelyn Wood, in his Paper, on page 129, which I am sure the noble Lord has read, refers to a very important point. He compares the length of the course which the officer of the American Army goes through with that which the officer of the British Army is required to undergo, and he refers to the United States Military Academy at West Point as an ideal cadet school. But the course at West Point extends over four years. Sir Evelyn Wood therefore strongly endorses what the noble Lord said with regard to the length of the course at Sandhurst, but the length of that course is largely affected by the demand for officers in the Army. If there is a sudden demand for a larger number of officers they have to be got through somehow or other, and the result is a pressure on the military authorities to reduce the length of the course at Sandhurst or Woolwich, as the case may be. That was, no doubt, the reason which induced the noble Marquess to consent to the reduction of the course at Sandhurst, which I agree with the noble Lord opposite was most undesirable. But he knows, as well as I do, that it is impossible to extend the living accommodation at Sandhurst suddenly, and, therefore, when there is a sudden demand for officers, I suppose the only alternative is to reduce the length of the course there.

The noble Lord, as far as I could gather, paid more attention in his speech to the education of the cadet at Sandhurst and Woolwich than to the chances of education which the officer gets after he has entered the Army. I, on the other

hand, attach far more importance to the education of the officer after he has entered the Army, and, as regards that, I cordially agree with the noble Lord opposite that the present state of things is deplorable, but I cannot agree with him that an inspector-general is going to rectify it. You have to create the educational institutions at which the young officer can receive this education. It has, I confess, hurt me, and I should think it must have hurt a good many of your Lordships, to read for some weeks, if not months past, in the daily press the opinions passed upon the British officer. During the war the greatest responsibilities were thrown on our young officers, who had frequently to lead their men in the face of certain death, to set an example to the men by being the first to rush into danger, to help the men to learn a new condition of warfare; and when I have read the criticisms to which these brave young officers have been subjected, I frankly say that my blood has boiled with indignation. If the young officer has not shown all the intelligence he might have, if he is not possessed of the best education he ought to have received, it is the system which is at fault and not the officer. I note the cheers of noble Lords opposite, but I am afraid I cannot agree with the noble Lord who moved the Motion now before your Lordships that a greater meed of blame is to be attached to the present Government than to the Government which preceded it. I do not think the system now in vogue is very different from what it was when the noble Lord was at the War Office. So far as the chances of education, after the young gentleman has got into the Army, are concerned, the system is the same now as when the noble Lord was Under Secretary of State for War. I am, however, quite ready to take my share of responsibility for not having done more while I was at the War Office for the education of the young officer.

What I want to show is that the young officer has no chance of going on from that stage of education at which he has arrived when he enters the Army, and of improving himself. Dr. Maguire, the Army coach, to whose opinion much value must be attached, states emphatically, on

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Page 77 of the evidence in the Blue-book that this is so. Elsewhere in the evidence it is pointed out that there are no text-books. Therefore, how the young officer is to learn I do not know. Dr. Maguire says that the text-books should never be allowed to run out of print, as has been the case lately, but I do not know that that is a serious matter, because some officers have described the text-book as valueless. Dr. Maguire concluded—

“There is at present no pretence to a proper system of education in the Army.”

That, I agree, is most deplorable. As there are no text-books opportunities for theoretical study are wanting, and the evidence of Sir Evelyn Wood (Pages 124 and 125) clearly shows that the young officer has little opportunity, when once he has got into the Army, of practical study. Asked whether he thought sufficient steps were taken to encourage young officers to continue their studies, Sir Evelyn Wood replied that there were no adequate steps taken, nor was there any possibility of their continuing their studies. This evidence must be borne in mind when reading the somewhat scathing remarks of some officers with reference to the young officer. As regards text-books, General Ian Hamilton admits that there are no text-books on the subject of military history; that a blue pencil had to be freely used to make the text-book on topography useful, and that there should be official text-books on all these subjects. On the subject of the education of the officer I will quote the opinion of Lord Roberts, who said—

“It is true that the officer of the present day, although he may pass a competitive examination, has no inducement to work, and, if he wants to work, no opportunity of doing so.”

So that it is really not the fault of the young officer if he does not get on.

This is a question altogether above Party, and if the noble Lord opposite would put his Motion in another form I should be very glad to vote with him. It is a very serious matter to think that our young officers should have no opportunity of improving themselves in the profession they have taken up, but I cannot admit, as I have said, that an Inspector General is the person to effect a very great change. It requires a great deal more than that. After the young officer has got into the Army, Dr. Maguire tells

us that he should have text-books to study theory and ground on which to be able to apply that theory to practice. Sir Evelyn Wood tells us that in many of the stations there is no ground on which they can carry out practice. It is a serious affair, and I urge that pressure should be brought upon the Treasury for more money, not only for educational purposes, but in order to acquire more ground, so that the officers can be adequately trained in the business of their profession. All this will cost money. You cannot set up schools of instruction for young officers without its costing money, and you cannot draw young officers away from their regiments for the purpose of instructing them without having more officers. At present officers dislike going away to schools of instruction because they know the amount of labour which their departure throws on their brother officers. Therefore, more officers will be required, and also a great deal of money, for the acquisition of more ground upon which to train them.

I quite admit that the Government is doing a great deal. It has obtained several good training grounds, but there are many stations in England where the troops cannot move off the road. How can a cavalry officer learn the important duties of reconnaissance—and the Report admits that these are the most important duties that can fall on a British officer at the present time—without the opportunity of crossing country over which manœuvre rights have been obtained? I submit that the pressure that ought to be brought to bear on the Government is not to appoint an officer with a high-sounding title, who may or may not be competent for the position, but to acquire more ground in the neighbourhood of military stations for officers and men to learn the business of their profession; and if my noble and gallant friend below me was personally responsible, I would take the liberty of asking him not to be afraid of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I remember the noble Marquess, whose departure from the high position of Prime Minister and Leader of this House we all deplore, making a speech early in the war in which, I will not say he complained of, but in which he described

the power that the Treasury had in recent years obtained over all Departments. I should like to quote a case within my own memory in which a Secretary of State for War was too strong for a Chancellor of the Exchequer. I refer to Mr. W. H. Smith, who, when Secretary of State for War, successfully carried his point against so strong a Chancellor of the Exchequer as Lord Randolph Churchill, and, by sticking to his guns, obtained the money necessary for the efficiency of the Army. I do venture to suggest that in the present state of affairs, which, I agree with the noble Lord opposite, is deplorable, it is essential, for the proper education of the young officer after he has joined the service, that proper opportunities should be given him of studying the profession which he has taken up; and in order to enable him to do so, an increase of educational establishments is necessary, as well as more ground for training purposes.

***THE LORD BISHOP OF HEREFORD:** My Lords, I have been for nearly thirty-three years intimately associated with the training of young men for the Army. As head master of Clifton College, I established and developed its military side; as head master of Rugby, it was my duty to organise the military department; and as head of a college at Oxford, I was intimately concerned with the education of a good many young men who were hoping to become officers of the Army. That must be my excuse for venturing to detain your Lordships for a few minutes with some observations on the Report of this Committee. This Committee, I take it, is one of the results of the South African War, and, looking at the very stimulative and in many respects admirable Report which the Committee has presented, I venture to think that it is by no means the least valuable result of the war. But it does not seem to me to demonstrate that anything has occurred in the war to show the defects in the early training of the British officer. And for this reason: The war has been one of an extremely novel character; we have been fighting an unusually brave and determined white race of men, all horsemen and all sportsmen, with a passion for independence; and I

anticipate and hope that never again will any of us see a British Army engaged against such a foe as that. The conditions of this war were so novel that for my part I do not believe that any amount of scientific training would have enabled our Army to do better than it has done. If this were the proper time, I should say that the war had rather demonstrated some deficiency in the training of some other parts of our English system, and especially of our politicians; but this is not the time to refer to that. The Report of the Committee lays stress on the need of the preliminary training of candidates for the Army being of a general character. I do not understand how the training of schoolboys is to be anything else but of a general nature, and I feel that the general education of the country in this connection can take care of itself.

The duty of the War Office is not to think of the general education of the boys, but to make it very clear what things the soldier should specially learn—what languages, for instance, what mathematics, what science, what draughtsmanship, what geography, what history, and so on—and what physical aptitudes and accomplishments are of the greatest value to him. The curricula of the great military schools should be very carefully drawn, and the preliminary education of the officer subordinated to them. Here we have a great defect. Many of my old pupils have come back to tell me how their time at Woolwich and Sandhurst has been wasted by their being compelled to go over elementary work which they had done long before at school, under instructors who were, to say the least, as good. If there is one thing which is likely to extinguish the zeal of a young man for the profession, it is that kind of early experience; and therefore I say that one of the first things to be considered is the scheme of education at the military colleges. I pass over many interesting minor points, but there is one such valuable suggestion in the Report which deserves to be emphasised, and it is that a far more liberal supply of commissions ought to be offered to the colonies. I venture to think that this is a very valuable suggestion, because our colonies would be likely to contribute some of the finest officers procurable; and, in the

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second place, I know of nothing that would be more likely to weld together our groups of colonies into one harmonious Empire.

The Report recommends that Woolwich and Sandhurst should be maintained. My experience has led me to a somewhat different conclusion. My view in this matter, which I venture with all humility to put before your Lordships for what it is worth, is that for any real reform of the training of officers it is most important that both Woolwich and Sandhurst should be re-constituted; and my belief is that the best of all possible reforms would be to unite them into one great military school—you may call it your military Eton if you please—governed by a body on which the civilian element should be strongly represented. By way of indicating the sort of civilian element I should like to see on such a body, I would suggest that such representatives as the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, the Warden of All Souls, Oxford, and perhaps a representative of my own profession, might be of service on it. One great national institution such as I have suggested would tend to economy in administration; it would secure better instruction; and it would bring the whole body of cadets together and give them a knowledge of each other which would be of great advantage to them in after life. Moreover, I hold that in such a great institution you would of necessity have to depend to a considerable extent on that form of self-government which Dr. Arnold did so much to introduce into our great public schools, and by means of that self-government you would introduce into the training of the great body of your cadets an element which some recent incidents at Sandhurst have shown to be lacking. And, again, in the course of the training in such an institution so governed you would find that the best soldiers would come to the front. That is my reason for dwelling with emphasis on the desirability of considering the reconstitution and the uniting of our great schools at Woolwich and Sandhurst.

There is one point which, singularly enough, has not yet been mentioned in this debate—the question of reducing the expenses of officers. Most of your Lordships know the inevitable

expenses of a young officer which fall on his parents. There are, I am sure, no parents who grudge any reasonable expenditure, but my conviction is that we shall never get a real body of working officers until we have very radically reduced the expenses of living that fall upon the young officer. The British Army wants working officers, and not young men with pockets full of money, a strong taste for amusements, and social aspirations. I am convinced that if the life of officers was so re-arranged as to make them working professional men, instead of amateurs, the best officers would come from homes where they have looked from their infancy at the pictures of their fighting ancestors, and they would be moved to devote themselves heart and soul to the work of their profession, with an ambition to do something worthy of their names. That is my feeling with regard to the question of expenses. I think the recommendation of the Committee on this point is far too timid; it only speaks of reducing expenses in cavalry regiments. But there are many infantry regiments in which the expenses of officers are far greater than they ought to be. There is a double waste in this system, for it often keeps out the poor man who might make the best soldier, and diverts the rich man from the pursuit of his profession.

There is another somewhat delicate point, which, to my mind, goes to the root of the whole matter. I refer to the question of promotion by selection, which, I presume, means promotion by merit, instead of by seniority. This is really a question whether officers shall have an open field to rise to lucrative and honourable places in the Army without any help from social influences and connections. I have ventured to say that this goes to the root of the matter, and, so far as I have been able to observe, there is a good deal of truth in the reports which are prevalent that there is no real inducement to a young officer to devote himself to his profession with zeal and industry, because, without family connection and without being known in the higher circles of society, he has not an equal chance of showing what he can do. It is commonly stated—I do not endorse the statement, but it is prevalent both in the Army and outside—that an inordinate proportion of

opportunities, and even of distinctions, in the Army go to such favoured regiments as the Guards. If there is any foundation for that complaint, it ought to be met. It is also commonly said that positions on the staff of the Army in a war are given in very large proportion to persons with family connections, and not in due proportion to those working soldiers who, in far-off places in the Empire, have, if there was a system under which their merit was really known, shown that they are pre-eminently the men to occupy these positions.

If these complaints are well founded, then I venture to say that the remedy is to make the military profession an open profession—as open as the great profession of medicine or of the law. We all turn in our moments of anxiety to the men who have made their names in the great profession of medicine, but in almost every case these men have worked their way to the front without any help whatever beyond their own industry and ability. I turn, again, to the law. The men who come to the front are the men who have fought for and won their positions in the open field. That cannot be said of the military profession. I say nothing of my own profession, because I am not infrequently reminded by those who differ from me that my promotion was due to a political accident. I must confess that I have no liking for the stream of tendency which is turning our freedom-loving, industrial nation into a military empire, with the taint of commercial greed in it; but we must have an Army. Let us, then, make it efficient; and to make it efficient we should make it more democratic. The three reforms—putting aside all the minor recommendations—which are of primary importance are, firstly, the reconstitution of the great schools of military education in the way I have described; secondly, a reduction in the expenses of the officers of the Army—in other words, that we should close the door resolutely against the influences of plutocracy, so as to get the best working officers; and, thirdly, that we should, by way of self-denying ordinance, insist that through all grades the profession of the officer should be absolutely open. If these three main reforms are set on foot, we may very soon have the best army in the world,

as I venture to think we have some of the best material. Failing these reforms, whatever else may be done, our last state may be no better than the first.

* THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Lord RAGLAN): My Lords, I do not propose to detain your Lordships very long. This subject is one of the most important that could possibly be brought before the House. I very much regret that I am not in a position this afternoon to be able to give the noble Lord the information for which he asks in the question which forms the first part of the Motion on the Paper. The reason why I am not in the position to do so is, very briefly, as follows. There are few things which can be of more importance as regards the efficiency of the Army than the education of the young gentlemen who are candidates for entering the Army as commissioned officers, and also of those young officers who have entered the service of His Majesty. In this country, as in all other countries, there has always been the greatest difficulty in ensuring that the training of the Army does not deteriorate during peace time. In this country the difficulty is enhanced by the fact that we have to keep an enormous proportion of our regular forces scattered about in small garrisons all over the world, many of them in unhealthy climates in which much exertion is apt to bring on illness, and many in small islands in which there is no ground available for manœuvres. In the matter of training, the Army is at a great disadvantage compared with the Navy. The Navy is practically always engaged in war—always at war with the elements. If an officer makes a mistake while in charge of one of His Majesty's ships, the mistake may be fatal both to the safety of the ship and the crew. In peace manœuvres, an officer of the Army may make a mistake, but that mistake, after all, is more or less a matter of opinion. General A may think the officer was acting wrongly, while General B may regard his action as quite right. These are matters which render the question of the education of officers of the Army always more difficult than that of officers of the Navy.

The noble Lord referred to the fact that it is three months since the Report of the Committee, presided over by Mr. Akers Douglas, was issued, and he seemed

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to think that little or nothing had been done in the direction which he desires during that period. In the first place, I would like to point out that those three months have been months of considerable stress at the War Office. Although peace has been declared, I can assure your Lordships from personal experience that the work of the War Office has by no means fallen off to the extent to which people who are not acquainted with what is going on there may imagine. A question so important and so far-reaching as this is not one to be taken up in the few intervals which can be devoted to it during the present time of strain and stress. The whole question is so important that any step which is taken should be most thoroughly and carefully thought out beforehand, and we ought to be quite sure that no step is taken which is not in the right direction. The question must be viewed as a whole. Any false step, any alteration which is not in the right direction, may produce an effect which would be incalculable. I can assure your Lordships that the subject has not been lost sight of by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War. It has occupied a very large amount of his attention, and he has been almost daily engaged in discussing these educational matters with those who are best qualified to give him proper advice. It is the intention of the Secretary of State to formulate as soon as he can some scheme which will improve the education of the British officer. With regard to the particular question to which the noble Lord's Motion is directed, I would point out that the subject of the appointment of a Director General of Education cannot be regarded by itself. It must be considered as part of an entire scheme, and I therefore hope the noble Lord will not press his Motion.

LORD DENMAN: My Lords, I should not have ventured to interpose in this debate were I not able to lay claim to some slight knowledge of the subject under discussion. About ten years ago I entered the Royal Military College at Sandhurst as a cadet, and, since passing out, I have spent the greater part of my life in the service. I have, therefore, some slight acquaintance with

the educational methods at present in vogue in the Army. The principal defect that a good many officers have noticed in the course of instruction at Sandhurst is that it is of rather too ambitious a character. I will take one instance, namely, that of tactics. In tactics, the cadet is taught the employment of cavalry and trained artillery; he is taught how to handle a division, and how to wield an army corps, how to march his army corps to the front, and how to manœuvre it on coming in contact with the enemy. All this, and a great deal more, forms part of the instruction of cadets at Sandhurst, and the cadet is a little disappointed on joining his regiment when he is put back for three months recruit drill on the barrack square. I think that such an elaborate course of instruction, useful though it may be later in life, is hardly the most suitable for boys just fresh from school, who have probably never set eyes on a battery of artillery in marching order in their lives, and who have probably never seen more horses together in one place than at a meet of their local pack of hounds. I cannot help thinking that it would be more useful to give the cadet thorough instruction in the duties of the ordinary private soldier, and to begin to inculcate into him some of those principles of military discipline which seem lately to have been somewhat lacking at the college.

I think it is a matter for regret that the recommendations of the Committee as regards Sandhurst have not gone a little further in the direction in which they have begun. We are all, I am sure, glad to hear from the noble Lord the Under Secretary of State for War that the War Office is shortly going to take this matter in hand, and I think, therefore, I might deal somewhat in detail with the course which the Committee recommend. They do not really propose to make any very radical alterations in the course of instruction at Sandhurst. What they recommend, roughly, is that there should be more out-of-door work and more riding—a most excellent recommendation; that the length of the course should be extended to two years, and that musketry and signalling should be taught. When

I was at Sandhurst, musketry was taught, and I cannot help thinking that signalling is a thing which is equally well learnt with the regiment. At any rate, such a smattering of signalling as can be acquired at Sandhurst will not be sufficient to obviate the necessity of going through the signalling course at Aldershot. The objection against the present course of instruction at Sandhurst is, I think, to be found in the Report itself. The opinion of the Committee was practically unanimous in favour of the University candidate. That amounts practically to this, that the University candidate who joins the service, as a rule with no military training at all, becomes just as efficient an officer as the man who has had eighteen months technical instruction. I think this is a very curious anomaly, and I do not suppose it exists in any other profession except the British Army.

We see in the Report that a circular was sent to officers commanding regiments to ask for their opinion on the respective merits of the candidates who join through the Militia and the Sandhurst cadets, and the universal opinion was that the Militia candidate made the better officer. I think the reason for that is not far to seek. It is because on joining his regiment the Militia officer knows something of regimental duties. I think this emphasises the point to which, in my opinion, the Committee has hardly sufficiently drawn attention, that the school for the young officer should be his regiment. The objects of military education are, I take it, first of all to turn out a good regimental officer, a secondary object being, I presume, to give him such a groundwork of instruction as to enable him to learn, and later on to take up the duties of a staff officer. I do not think the course at Sandhurst is sufficiently devoted to teaching an officer regimental duties. As the Report points out, when a cadet leaves Sandhurst he is under the impression that, as far as his technical military education is concerned, he has learnt all that will be required of him, and that is probably the case, as he is never likely, unless he chooses to go to the Staff College, to require very much more training than he gets

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at Sandhurst, in order to pass the examination for promotion which is the only further test to which he is subjected. With regard to Woolwich cadets, who have been on the whole favourably reported upon, the case is, somewhat different. The engineer officer has to spend two years after he leaves Woolwich at the Engineering School at Chatham, and the artillery officer is obliged to go through a course at Shoeburyness or the other centre. Therefore, I think that probably some other course will have to be found that goes more thoroughly to the root of the matter than the course recommended by the Committee.

I should have thought that it might be possible to institute a new college altogether, to which officers, or at any rate a large proportion of the officers in the Army, might go after some two or three years' service, and that then they should learn thoroughly a good deal of what they are now taught at Sandhurst. It would then be possible to cut down the course at Sandhurst to one year, to teach a cadet thoroughly the duties of a private soldier, and to pay a great deal of attention to his physical training. I think that the advantages of such a course of instruction would be great. They would ensure, in the first place, a continuity of education for the young officer. As the noble Lord opposite (Lord Harris) pointed out, it is the education subsequent to his leaving college that is, after all, the most important thing. He would also have technical military instruction at a time when he is better able to appreciate the value of it, and it would foster to a certain extent that spirit of keenness and competition which at present, as all the speakers have agreed, is absent. It would also, I think, in the long run, tend to raise the course of instruction at the Staff College. The disadvantages, of course, would be that it would take away an officer for a year, or a year and a half, from his regiment, and, no doubt, that is always a bad thing, because it puts the regimental duty on the other officers. The other great objection, no doubt, would be the expense. Of course, that is a serious question, and one which meets people who deal with Army questions at every turn. But it is

surely not unreasonable to expect that a Government which is going to spend such large sums on the general education of the country, and which is at present devoting so much time and trouble to the piloting of an Education Bill through Parliament, should make some adequate provision for the education of officers in the Army. I think the whole tendency in the Army is to teach men a little of a great many subjects, but to teach them nothing very well. I believe that in most other professions special knowledge is almost a necessity, and it is special knowledge which is, after all, of the utmost value. I will take the case of topography. I do not think our generals in South Africa can have thought very much of the capacity of the officers who served under their command to make maps or sketches, because there were so very few indeed made of the country; and I am afraid that there are not many officers in the Army, either serving with their regiments or on the staff, who would be able to turn out a really accurate road sketch at the pace at which a column is marching. When I was in South Africa, and trekking along roads where columns had been before, I was often obliged to risk valuable lives in finding out information which I ought to have had given me on a map. I hope that when the War Office does deal with this question they will take a wide and broad-minded view of it, and not content themselves with renovating antiquated methods and tinkering up institutions which are themselves so sadly in need of drastic reform.

LORD RIBBLESDALE: My Lords, I am sure we all desire to congratulate the noble Lord who has just sat down, on his first speech in this House. It was an interesting as well as a useful speech. I am very glad to hear from the noble Lord the Under Secretary for War that this subject has not been lost sight of by the War Office. We all recognise the great amount of work which the War Office and the noble Lord himself have to do, and it is unreasonable to expect, particularly in this hot weather, that as a means of relaxation they should turn their attention to the carrying out of the recommendations of the Committee on Military Education. Pleasant as the

noble Lord's speeches always are in form, I am bound to say that tonight his speech was a little disappointing in substance. I think it is a pity that he is going to resist this Motion, the area of which is, after all, limited to a very small point, on which we are all agreed. I would suggest to my noble friend that in order to secure the acceptance of this Motion, and to save this important debate from ending up in the newspapers with the words "the subject then dropped," he should take out the word "deplorable," and should make the Motion end at the word "report." I cannot agree that the regimental officer is the ignorant person he is made out to be. What you have to remember is that after a certain age people have to educate themselves. In the journey of life we are divided into people who are inclined to forget and people who are inclined to learn, and I do not think the appointment of an Inspector General would make much difference in that. As has been said, this is not a Party question, and I think that if the noble Lord will amend his Motion in the way I have suggested it will be acceptable to the House.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I think the feeling must be general that it would be impossible for us to accept the Motion in the form in which the noble Lord opposite placed it on the Paper. This Report covers an immense deal of ground. It deals not only with the antecedent education received by our officers, and with the intermediate education which they receive at the Royal Military College and the Royal Military Academy, but also with that, as I think, far more important education and training which they receive after obtaining their commissions. It would be out of the question that after the few weeks during which this Report has been in our hands we should at this moment announce to the House in detail the steps that we intend to take in order to give effect to any part of its recommendations. But if the noble Lord will be content to stop at the word "report," as proposed by Lord Ribblesdale, to substitute for the words "immediate steps" some such

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words as "the earliest possible steps," and to leave out the word "deplorable," then we might very well agree to the Motion. But the speech in which the noble Lord opposite commenced the debate renders it absolutely necessary that I should inflict a few words on your Lordships' House. The noble Lord traced the failure of our system of military education more especially to the fact that in the year 1899, when I had charge of the War Office, we abolished the office of Director General of Military Education. Some of the noble Lord's criticisms show how necessary it is to examine matters of this kind with a little more care than he bestowed on this part of the subject.

What were the facts with regard to the abolition of the office of Director General of Military Education? A vacancy occurred in that office, and it became my duty to consider whether a new appointment should be made. The office had existed for a considerable number of years, and I suggest, for the noble Lord's consideration, that, if during these years military education has been as deficient as he believes it to have been, if Sandhurst has got into a bad way, if the Civil Service examinations are not what they should be, this at any rate shows that the existence of the office of Director General did not afford a guarantee against that deterioration of our educational system in the Army which the noble Lord so much deplores. The position of the Director General was this. He had the charge of the whole of military education, including the Army schools, at which the children of private soldiers are educated, everything from that up to the examinations for promotion to the rank of Field Officer. The Director General was not under the military side of the War Office, but he was an official subordinate to the Secretary for War—an arrangement which, as the Committee point out, had the effect of accentuating the distinction between military training and military education which we all desire to efface as much as possible. To the best of my belief, it was not always possible to discover for that high office an incumbent possessing any special aptitude for dealing with educational problems. I

will not put it more strongly than that. I made inquiry into the work conducted in the Director General's office, and I came to the conclusion that a different distribution was desirable. We separated that part of the work which concerns the Army schools from the rest, and we put the education of officers under the Military Secretary, the training of officers being under the Adjutant General. That arrangement had the effect of bringing the training and the education together and placing them both within the immediate ken of the Commander-in-Chief and the high military authorities of the War Office.

In my belief it would have been quite impossible to have found, in or outside the office, any official more competent to take charge of military education than the then Military Secretary, Sir Coleridge Grove, an officer with a brilliant University career, who has seen service in the field, who has filled many important appointments at headquarters, and who enjoyed in the highest degree the confidence of the Commander-in-Chief. We associated with Sir Coleridge Grove a very able officer, Colonel Delavoye, who had for a long time been in special charge of educational questions under the Director General. I am prepared to say that that arrangement, although it may, perhaps, not have been a perfect arrangement, was a very much better one than the arrangement which it replaced. I think, if the noble Lord will refer to the Report of the Committee, he will see that that is so. In fact, I think it would be correct to say that if at this moment you were to give Colonel Delavoye a step in rank, and associate with him that Advisory Board for which the noble Lord did not particularly press, you would have the arrangement which the Committee desires to see introduced. I believe it was a better arrangement in theory as I believe it was a better arrangement in practice, and I am almost tempted to say that one of the consequences of the change was the appointment of this Committee. I say what I know when I tell your Lordships that Sir Coleridge Grove, after taking stock of the educational arrangements which he found in existence, came to the conclusion, which he recorded in a Minute, that a Committee of this kind on which the public schools

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and universities would be represented, was necessary in order to get to the bottom of these educational problems; and, although it is possible that my right hon. colleague would have appointed this Committee whether Sir Coleridge Grove recommended it or not, it was certainly from Sir Coleridge Grove that the Motion for the appointment of some such Committee as this first proceeded.

There is another result of the change which I should point out. I doubt very much whether, if the old arrangement had remained in force, it would have been possible for the War Office to provide the large extra number of officers of whom we stood in need when the great demand created by the war came upon us. The figures are striking. In 1896, the year in which I went to the War Office, there were just over 500 first appointments to the Army; in 1899 the number had risen to 1,000; in 1900 to 2,274 officers. I maintain that, if at that time of stress you had had two different officials, the one responsible for testing the fitness of candidates and the other for appointing and selecting them, it would have been impossible to bring that great number of young officers into the Army as rapidly and as smoothly as we did. The change was, I need not say, not made for economical considerations. These did not enter into our minds at all. It was suggested by the noble Lord that we had economised in the rewards for foreign languages. It is true that the sum taken four or five years ago was £4,000, and that it fell to £1,000. Why? Because the number of officers who came forward to claim these grants was not sufficient to absorb the £4,000. We did what is always done—namely, to include in the Estimates for the coming year a sum corresponding to that which had been actually spent in the past year.

I am not going to enter into the details of the Report of the Committee. It contains a good many statements and recommendations which, in my opinion, require a great deal of careful consideration before we can venture to act upon them. I hope, in regard to what is called antecedent education, that we shall be slow to give up the principle which has hitherto been accepted by

successive Governments, that we should endeavour to attract to the Army the best young men from our great public schools. That principle was laid down by Lord Dufferin's Commission many years ago, and we have acted upon it consistently. If the best lads we can get from the public schools are not good enough for us, that suggests to my mind the idea that there is something not quite right with the education given in the public schools themselves; and I trust that the learned headmasters who have given us so much valuable and admirable advice, which we shall take to heart, will turn their eyes towards matters nearer home, and consider whether they cannot do something in their own schools to bring up a race of lads better grounded for the great profession of arms. Certainly in the case of Sandhurst there is a great deal to be done; and I am able to say that long before the incidents which have lately taken place there, my right hon. colleague had fully made up his mind that radical changes, both in the *personnel* and in the system of Sandhurst were inevitable. There remains the third branch of military education, which seems to me by far the most important of all—I mean the training which the officer receives in his regiment, an education which, to my mind, should never stop from the day he receives his commission, until the day he goes on half-pay. It seems to me that by far the heaviest count in this indictment is that which suggests to us that that particular branch of the officer's education has been grievously neglected. I believe the raw material we get is good enough. If the manufactured article does not turn out as well as it might, I am afraid it is because there is something wrong in the process of manufacture. To my mind the mill in which that manufacture should go on is the regiment; and if it is the case, as we are constantly told, that it is bad form for young officers to pay attention to the details of his profession, if it is true that their brains are allowed to lie fallow between one examination and another, if the indolent and ignorant are advanced and the meritorious are not recognised, and if extravagant habits prevail, I say that the remedy is to be careful in the choice of the men to whom you give the command of regiments,

and to be ruthless if you find that they do not do their duty by the officers under their command.

But I believe that these allegations, so easily and glibly made, are to a great extent exaggerated. With all their faults, my Lords, our young officers at the present day, in point of character, manliness, and good physique, will bear comparison with their predecessors at any period in the history of the Army; and, although there is a great deal of room for improvement, I believe that they take more interest in, and thought for, their profession than was the case twenty or forty years ago. Merit may not always, perhaps, work its way to the front, but it has a much better chance of doing so than it had when it was the power of the purse which bought a man his rank in the Army. If I wanted proof of that I would ask your Lordships to consider how admirably these officers acquit themselves when the opportunity is given to them. I will not repeat what has been said about their behaviour in the South African war, but I ask you to consider what the Indian Army—whose representatives we have been admiring so much lately—owes to the handful of British officers who are placed in charge of every regiment; and what does not the Egyptian Army, regenerated by British officers, owe to them? All over the world, wherever there are irregular levies, military police, and those improvised forces on which we have so often to rely, there you find the young officer who gets a chance rising to the occasion and making an indelible mark on the people placed under him.

One other illustration. I spoke just now of the number of officers now employed extra regimentally in the Colonies and in different parts of the Empire. If we do not appreciate our officers, other people do. Ten years ago there were only sixty-two British officers on extra regimental employment of this kind. At this moment there are no less than 525, and the demand is continually increasing. It is a demand from people who are not obliged to take these officers, but who come as suppliants to beg for these men, because there is no one else who can do their work so well, and if we are sometimes disappointed, do not let us forget that

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we expect now a great deal more of every officer in the Army than we ever expected before. The conditions of war in the present day require qualities which were not expected of the old race of officers. I saw lately a most interesting statement to this effect—that at the battle of Waterloo, 68,000 British troops were extended over a front of only three miles, and that at the battle of Diamond Hill a British force of 40,000 men was extended over a front of no less than 23 miles. What does that mean? It means that not only brigade is separated from brigade by a great distance, but battalion from battalion, company from company, section from section, and man from man; and in fighting in these conditions you must have in your officers qualities of decision and self-reliance which were undreamt of in the philosophy of the older race. They are qualities which no examination, and which not even rows of Directors-General, will discover for you. They can be imparted only by men who possess those qualities themselves, and who owe their high position to the fact that they possess them. I believe that such men do exist in the British Army; and if, as the result of this Report, they are given a wider scope and a greater opportunity of making their influence felt, its pages will not have been written in vain.

***LORD MONKSWELL:** I am much obliged to the noble Marquess for his suggestion, and I shall the more cheerfully amend my Motion in accordance with that suggestion because he, unlike the noble Lord the Under Secretary, gave me some valuable information as to the attitude the Government are going to adopt in the matter of military education. He said that Colonel Delavoye will probably have a step in rank.

THE MARQUESS OF LANDSDOWNE: I said that if Colonel Delavoye were given a step in rank the arrangement would be very much what the Committee recommends.

LORD MONKSWELL: I hope Colonel Delavoye will be given a step in rank because, as the Committee point out, it is impossible that a colonel should have

authority in educational matters over the Governors of Sandhurst and Woolwich. My point is that there should be some central body for education, and the noble Marquess suggests that something in the nature of a Council of Military Education should be set up. But whether that be done or not, I am quite certain that there must be a central body. With regard to the amount given for languages I regret that I was misled, and I accept the noble Marquess's explanation. My Motion, as amended, will read as follows—

“That, in the opinion of this House, the earliest possible steps should be taken with a view to remedy the state of things disclosed in the report of the Committee on Military Education.”

On Question, resolved in the affirmative.

House adjourned at ten minutes
past Seven o'clock, till to-
morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 17th July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS]
(STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE
THERE TO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz. :—

Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London) Bill [Lords].

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time tomorrow.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY BILL,
OMAGH URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL,
SALFORD CORPORATION BILL,
SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAMROAD
BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

BRISTOL CORPORATION BILL [LORDS]
(KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).

Read a third time, and passed, with Amendments.

MEDWAY AND THAMES CANAL BILL
[LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

ABERDEEN SUBURBAN TRAMWAYS
ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Read a second time ; to be considered upon Monday next.

PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWNSHIRE
JOINT RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMA-
TION.

Bill to confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Railway, ordered to be brought in by the Lord Advocate and Mr. Solicitor General for Scotland.

PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWNSHIRE
JOINT RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMA-
TION BILL.

“To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to the Portpatrick and Wigtownshire Joint Railway,” presented accordingly ; and, under 62 and 63 Vic., cap. 47, sec. 7 (2), ordered to be considered upon Monday next.

MENAI BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL BILL [LORDS].

WHITSTABLE IMPROVEMENT BILL
[LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 5) BILL [LORDS].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed] ; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time tomorrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL [LORDS].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time tomorrow.

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time tomorrow.

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time tomorrow.

[LEICESTER CORPORATION BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].**TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].**

Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

WREXHAM DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].**ROSSENDALE VALLEY TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].**

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to: Rothsay Tramways [(Extension) Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment; East Worcestershire Water Bill, North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill, Cleethorpes Improvement Bill, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.**COUNTY COURTS (IRELAND) BILL.**

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: From Scarborough; Ledbury; South Shields (three); and Manchester; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Lower Darwen; Rye; Burnage; Tintwistle; Hyde; Hollingworth; King Somborne; Shrewsbury; Melbourne; Rushden; Hanley; East and West Challow; East Hendred; Spars-holt; Wantage; West Bromwich (three); Cowes; Southampton; Lewes; Oxford (three); Manchester; Miles Platting; Penmon; Clothall; Litton; Newark; Blackburn (two); Gittisham; and Eccles; to lie upon the Table.

GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON ELECTIONS BILL.

Petitions from St. Pancras, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.**LAND LAW IRELAND ACT, 1887 (EVICTION NOTICES).**

Copy presented, of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 30th June, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION ACCOUNT, 1901-2.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 17th June; *Mr. Grant Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 274.]

RAILWAY RETURNS.

Copy presented, of Return as to the Capital, Traffic Receipts, and Working Expenditure, etc., of the Railway Companies of the United Kingdom for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 8) BILL [LORDS].

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 275.]

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 276.]

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; *Mr. Gerald Balfour*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 277.]

EXPLOSIONS (EXPLOSION OF GUN-POWDER ON REGISTERED PREMISES AT MARPLE, NEAR STOCKPORT).

Copy presented, of Report by Captain M. B. Lloyd, His Majesty's Inspector of Explosives, to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, on the circumstances attending an explosion of gun-powder which took place on the registered premises of Messrs. James Lee & Sons, New Road, Marple, on the 26th April, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA (DESPATCHES).

Copy presented, of Despatch by General Lord Kitchener, dated 1st June, 1902, relative to military operations in South Africa [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts presented, of all Deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1901, and of the Sums received and paid by the National Debt Commissioners on account of the Fund for the Post Office Savings Banks in the same year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 278.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1902-3).

Estimate presented, of the further sums required to be voted for the service of the year ending 31st March, 1903 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 279.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2854 to 2856 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House,

1. Caledonian Canal, Copy of Ninety-seventh Report of the Commissioners [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 280.]

2. Royal University of Ireland, Copy of Account of Receipts and Expenditure of the Royal University of Ireland for the year ended 31st March, 1902, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 281.]

FISHING PIERS (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "giving the amount of public money spent on the repair or construction of Fishery Piers in Ireland, specifying the amount spent in each county, since the year 1850, stating the Act or Acts of Parliament under which the several expenditures have been made, also whether the funds so spent have been derived from Irish or from Imperial sources, and whether by way of grant or by way of loan; and, in the latter case, on what terms as to interest and repayment."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde*.)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

Ben Nevis Observatory.

SIR JOHN STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College): To ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the observatory on the summit of Ben Nevis is about to be abandoned on account of want of funds; whether any application has been made through the Scottish Office for assistance for the observatory from the public purse; and whether, if such application has been refused, he will state the grounds of the refusal.

(*Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.*) I have seen the memorandum issued by the directors of the Ben Nevis and Fort William Observatories announcing the imminent discontinuance of these establishments through lack of funds. No application for Government assistance has reached the Scottish Office.

Waima Arbitration.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state if the Waima award has been received, or will be received in the course of the day.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) The award of the arbitrator in the Waima case was communicated to His Majesty's Minister at Brussels on the 15th instant.

**British Vice-Consulship at Montreux—
Candidature of Mr. Ames.**

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that Mr. Ames was among the British subjects who were applicants for the post of British Vice-Consul at Montreux; and that he was recommended by the British Minister; and, seeing that no British subject who applied for the post was found to be duly qualified for it, will he state in what respect Mr. Ames was not duly qualified; and what are the due qualifications for the post.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) I am aware that Mr. Ames was an applicant for the post of British Vice-Consul at Montreux; it is not the case that he was recommended by the British Minister; and the information which reached the Foreign Office induced the Secretary of State to think that he was not the candidate best qualified for the post.

Aden Defences—Expenditure.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state what sum has been expended on the defences of Aden since they were initiated in 1882.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) About £400,000.

**Pauper Sick—Anæsthetics in Surgical
Operations—Payment to Medical Officer.**

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will explain why, under regulations of the Local Government Board, no provision whatever has been made for the administration of anæsthetics when operations have to be performed by Poor Law medical officers on sick paupers at a distance from a hospital or workhouse infirmary; and why no alteration has been made in the scale of fees allowed for special operations performed by Poor Law medical officers since the year 1847, many important operations, which have now become general, not having been added to the original list.

(*Answered by Mr. Long.*) The first matter referred to in the Question has been dealt with by the Local Government Board by means of a circular letter which they issued to Boards of Guardians in November, 1894. In that letter the Board recommended that, under ordinary circumstances, a case in which a serious operation was required, should not be treated in a workhouse or at the patient's home, but should be sent to a public hospital. They stated, however, that in any case, when the latter course was not practicable, or when the operation was not of a serious character, they were prepared, if an anæsthetic was required, to consider an application from the Guardians for sanction to the payment to the medical officer of a reasonable sum in respect of any assistance which it was necessary for him to obtain in connection with the administration of the anæsthetic, or of other cost incurred in connection with its use. It has been the invariable practice of the Board to give their sanction to reasonable payments proposed to be made by Boards of Guardians to medical officers in circumstances of the kind referred to. I am not aware that difficulties have been experienced in connection with the scale of fees to Poor Law medical officers for operations, but if representations are made to me showing that alterations are required, I shall be willing to give the subject careful consideration. At the same time I would repeat that, under ordinary circumstances, serious operations should not be treated in a workhouse or at the patient's home, but should be sent to a public hospital.

**Municipal (Non-County) Boroughs—
Statistics.**

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can give the number of municipal boroughs which contained, according to the last census, a population of under 2,000 inhabitants, of the number containing between 2,000 and 5,000, between 5,000 and 10,000, 10,000 and 30,000, and the number containing over 30,000 inhabitants; and also the number of municipal boroughs other than county boroughs having a population exceeding that of the urban district of Merthyr Tydvil.

(*Answered by Mr. Long.*) The number of municipal boroughs, other than county boroughs, in England and Wales, according to the last census, was as follows: under 2,000 inhabitants, 12; between 2,000 and 5,000, 56; between 5,000 and 10,000, 44; between 10,000 and 30,000, 90; over 30,000 inhabitants, 48. There are 67 county boroughs. All but one of these have a population of over 30,000. None of the municipal boroughs in England and Wales, other than county boroughs, has a population exceeding that of the urban district of Merthyr Tydvil, although there are eight other urban districts with a greater population.

Royal Marines—Supersession of a General Officer.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether a general officer, Royal Marines, has recently been retired from the staff as being mentally unfit; and whether his name is still retained on the active list in contravention of the Order in Council governing such cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) The general officer referred to has been superseded in his appointment owing to a severe attack of mental depression, from which it is thought he may recover in about six months time. As he has not yet been found to be permanently incapacitated for further service, the question of his retirement from the active list under the Order in Council does not arise.

Ireland—Alleged Police Assault at Kingscourt, Cavan.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, on the 28th of February last, Constable Kevelehan, of the Kingscourt, County Cavan, Police Station, assaulted and robbed a man named John M'Mahon; and will he say whether an inquiry has been held into that case; and, if so, will he state the result.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The constable did not assault and rob this man. But he found him drunk on the street, a bottle containing whisky lying beside him. The man was convicted of drunkenness, and had several times previously been convicted of a similar offence.

Maintenance Charge of a Police Sergeant Declared Insane.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a police sergeant stationed at Booterstown, County Dublin, was on Saturday last declared to be insane by a local doctor, and was subsequently transferred to the Richmond Lunatic Asylum; and whether a portion of the cost of maintaining Sergeant Morrow will be levied on the counties which contribute to the maintenance of the Richmond Asylum.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The facts are as stated in the first part of the Question. If the ex-sergeant has become a pauper inmate of the asylum, the Treasury grant in aid of his maintenance at the rate of 4s. per week will be payable. Any excess payment incurred in respect of his maintenance will be contributed from local sources.

Labourers' Cottages—Application of D. Forde of Tincoora.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, Co. N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say why a labourer, Denis Forde, of Tincoora Division, Kanturk Union, was refused a cottage and plot of ground at the recent inquiry, in view of the fact that the application was not opposed by the occupant of the farm of South Glynn.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The inspector was unable to recommend the acquisition of the site selected, as it was mainly rock, and quite unsuitable for the purposes of the Labourers' Act.

Education of Non-English-Speaking Irish.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Census Returns just issued for the County of Galway show that 9,442 inhabitants of that county cannot speak English; and whether he would state what provision is made for the education of this minority of the population, 4,000 of whom are of an age to attend school.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The figures in the first part of the Question

are correct. Of these, the number of children between three and eighteen years of age is 2,458. The Commissioners of National Education prescribe courses in which teachers who desire to show their proficiency in Irish may be examined. Courses are also prescribed for pupils in Irish, and special fees on a liberal scale are awarded to approved teachers of Irish. An inspector is employed whose special function is to supervise the teaching of Irish, including the examination of schools in which the language is taught. The Commissioners further desire that where there are Irish-speaking pupils in a school, the teachers shall, when practicable, employ the vernacular as an aid to the elucidation and acquisition of the English language, and inspectors are at liberty to employ the vernacular in the conduct of their examination.

Pensions for Relatives of Officers Killed while on Probation.

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will arrange that an officer on probation killed in action shall be considered *ipso facto* to have qualified himself for a commission, and that in such cases promotion shall be given after death and a pension awarded to the relatives of the deceased: and, if so, whether he will make this order retrospective, to cover the period of the South African War.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) I will give the question careful consideration, but I cannot hold out great hopes of such a concession, as I am afraid that the change in practice involved would be considerable.

Presteign Rifle Range.

MR. EDWARDS (Radnorshire): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, having regard to the fatal accident which recently occurred on the rifle range at Presteign, and in view of the unprotected nature of that range, he will give instructions to have the range stopped as being a danger to the public.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The matter has been referred to the General Officer Commanding to take any necessary action.

Cornwallis Charity, Carmarthenshire.

MR. ALFRED DAVIES (Carmarthen Boroughs): To ask the hon. Member for the Tonbridge Division of Kent, as a Charity Commissioner, in view of the fact that the scheme published in July, 1896, for the Cornwallis Charity, Carmarthenshire, which was amended in that year by the Charity Commissioners, was not opposed by either of the interested parishes of Llansadwrn and Llanwrda, if he will say by whom the scheme was opposed; and, seeing that the then Assistant Commissioner completed his inquiry in November, 1898, will he explain the reason of the delay which has caused no scheme to be adopted for four years after the completion of the inquiry, and two years after the Report has been printed; and will he state whether the funds connected with this charity have been found in order and what they amount to; and whether any, and, if so, what amount is now employed yearly in relief of local rates.

(Answered by Mr. Griffith Boscawen.)

- (1) The main reason of the delay which has taken place in the establishment of a scheme under the Charitable Trusts Acts for the Cornwallis Charity is the refusal of the trustees of the Charity to apply for a scheme. The Commissioners have no power under those Acts to establish a scheme for a charity, the yearly income of which exceeds £50, except on an application from the trustees. This application the trustees refused to make, and their refusal rendered it necessary for the Commissioners to bring the matter before the Chancery Division of the High Court. On a summons being issued against them on behalf of the Attorney General, the trustees made, in the spring of 1901, the required application. The Commissioners immediately took steps to prepare a scheme, a draft of which is now, and has for some time been, before the trustees for their consideration. Some delay has also been caused by the difficulty of dealing with the claims of the patron of the almshouses.
- (2) So far as the Commissioners have been able to ascertain, the property of the Charity is duly vested and secured.
- (3) The gross yearly income of that property is about £267.
- (4) No part of the income is directly applied to the relief of local rates.
- (5) The scheme

published in July, 1896, was opposed by the trustees of the Charity, but objections to some of its provisions were also made by the Parish Council of Llansadwrn, the School Board of Llansadwrn, and the Parish Meeting of Llanwrda.

[2.15.] QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Answers to Questions—Absence of Ministers.

Prior to the arrival of the Prime Minister, and referring to the absence of the right hon. Gentleman at the moment a Question addressed to him was reached,

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) addressing the Speaker, said—You called me to order yesterday for commenting in a disorderly way on the absence of Ministers. May I ask you, Sir, what is the orderly way of drawing attention to the absence of Ministers?

MR. SPEAKER: It is possible that the hon. Member may himself discover an orderly way.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR immediately afterwards entered the House.

South Africa—Government Legislative Proposals.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government contemplates the introduction of any legislation respecting affairs in South Africa during the present session.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No, Sir; not before the Adjournment of the House.

South African War—Victoria Cross—Distribution to Relatives of Deceased Soldiers.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any record is intended to be made, or anything to be done, for the memory, of those who have been killed in action in the war under circumstances which, had they lived, would have entitled them to a V.C. or other distinction.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): It is intended to grant the Victoria Cross to the representatives of those who have been killed during the war in the performance of acts of gallantry which, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, would have entitled them to the decoration had they survived.

Censorship.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War, if he will say why Sir Edward Hulse, Bart., has been appointed to the position of Military Press Censor in South Africa, having regard to the fact that peace has been established.

MR. BRODRICK: As I informed the House recently, the censorship has been maintained over press cablegrams. I am not aware of the particular appointment referred to.

Remounts—The Studdert Case.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can inform the House why the Studdert case was compromised; and whether the defendants could have been prosecuted on another charge.

The following Questions on the same subject also appeared on the Paper.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state whether Colonel St. Quentin is the member of the Imperial Yeomanry Committee, whose duty it was to inspect the remounts for the South African War, who made the arrangement with Major Studdert for the purchase by him of horses in Ireland for the South African War; and will he say why Colonel St. Quentin was not called as a witness at the trial in Dublin of the Secretary of State for War *v.* Studdert and others.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware of the terms under which the action of the Secretary of State for War *v.* Studdert, for fraudulent breach of contract as agent

and trustee, was compromised by the Solicitor General for Ireland as counsel for the War Office, and did he personally assent thereto; and, if so, will he state the grounds on which his assent was based.

MR. BRODRICK: In reply to these Questions, I am afraid that I am not yet in a position to add anything to my answer of yesterday, but I hope to give an answer on Tuesday next. I may, however, say that no pledge of any kind has been given as to civil proceedings in reference to the remaining horses, or as to prosecution of individuals.

Tientsin.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the proposed conditions for the evacuation of Tientsin have been further modified; and, if he can state to the House in what position they now stand.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): His Majesty's Minister reports that the conditions for the dissolution of the Provisional Government have been further modified in a sense favourable to China; amongst other modifications the distance within which Chinese troops may not approach the Foreign Troops garrisoning Tientsin has been reduced to about six miles. A Note embodying these conditions, signed by the Ministers of those Powers having representatives on the Provisional Government, was sent in to the Chinese Government on the 14th instant.

Orkney Foreshore Fishing.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the understanding given in 1899 that there should be no further sales of Crown rights in foreshore fishing by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, he will cancel upon fair terms the sale of foreshore fishing in Orkney which has been made at a small rent.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I cannot trace

any such understanding as my hon. friend refers to in the Question; but, in answer to a Question by the hon. Member for East Aberdeenshire, the then Financial Secretary to the Treasury stated on 16th May, 1899, that in ordinary cases the Commissioners of Woods invariably declined to sell Crown rights of salmon fishing in Scotland, and that sales are made only where there are very exceptional circumstances. The circumstances connected with the one case in Orkney in which an agreement has been made for the sale of Crown rights were very exceptional, as explained by me on 17th February last, in reply to two Questions by the hon. Members for Orkney and Shetland and for Wick Burghs.† The Commissioners of Woods cannot undertake to cancel the agreement for sale.

Coal Duty Rebates.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the refusal of the Customs to remit the coal duty on 10,000 tons of fuel, shipped prior to the 31st December 1901, by the Nitrate Railways Company—a British Company, registered in the United Kingdom—for their own use under a pre-Budget contract entered into on 17th January 1901 with the Crown Preserved Coal Company, and whether he has any reason to doubt the *bonâ fide* nature of the transaction; and, seeing that the difference between a free alongside and free on board contract, in so far as the contractors and contractees are concerned, is that the shipowner and not the shipper bears the cost of placing the cargo on board, will he say why the duty was not refunded in this case.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: My right hon. friend, who is temporarily detained elsewhere, has asked me to reply to this Question for him. There is no reason to doubt the *bonâ fides* of the transaction referred to; but, as the contract was for delivery "free alongside," and not free on board, the vendors were under no obligation to ship the coal or to pay the duty. It was made quite plain last year that there would be no

† See (4) *Debates*, ciii., 189.

exception from duty on "free alongside" contracts. The object of the concession then made was to avoid hardship to vendors in this country under pre-Budget contracts, and it was never intended to relieve purchasers abroad, whether British or foreign.

Intermediate Education in Denbighshire.

MR. HUMPHREYS OWEN (Montgomeryshire): On behalf of the hon. Member for East Denbighshire, I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, if he is aware that the scheme framed for the County of Denbigh, under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889, provides that a certain number of local county school governors shall in each case be appointed by the School Boards of the district within which each county school is situate; viz., on the local governing bodies of each of the county schools of Llangollen, Ruthin, Denbigh, Llanrwst, Abergelle, and Wrexham, the School Boards in the respective districts appoint four, and in the case of Ruabon six, school governors; and whether, as the Education Bill now before the House proposes to abolish School Boards, he will state in what manner he proposes that the members of the local governing bodies now appointed by the School Boards shall in future be appointed.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): This matter was mentioned yesterday in the debate on the clause, and will be considered by the Government.

Achanault Deer Forest.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, in view of the fact that the acreage of the deer forest of Achanault, Ross-shire, is quoted in the Deer Forest Return issued in 1891 as 45,000 acres, will he explain why the acreage is not quoted in the amended Deer Forest Return issued by the Crown Agent for Scotland and dated 1899; and, will he state the approximate acreage.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I have already fully explained to the hon. Member my position and views in regard

to the Deer Forests Return of 1899. I have nothing to add to the answers which I have given.

MR. WEIR: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my Question.

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes; an answer has been given to the Question.

MR. WEIR: I wish to know has this forest of 45,000 acres disappeared?

Wicklow Magistracy.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland if he can state the number of Roman Catholics in the county of Wicklow who are *ex-officio* magistrates, and the number of Roman Catholic magistrates who are not *ex-officio* magistrates.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): There are four Chairmen of Councils in the County Wicklow who are *ex-officio* Justices of the Peace. They are believed to be Roman Catholics. I have already stated that, exclusive of the *ex-officio* element, there are twenty-three other justices in the county who are believed to be of the same religious persuasion.

Remounts—The Studdert Case.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether the attention of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland has been called to the case of the War Office v. Major Studdert, recently tried in the Vice Chancellor's Court, Dublin; and whether the Lord Chancellor intends to remove Major Studdert from the Commission of the Peace.

MR. ATKINSON: A report of the proceedings in this case has been referred to the Lord Chancellor.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Is this gentleman a receiver in the Land Judges Court?

MR. ATKINSON: I am not aware.

Irish Resident Magistrates.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that of the twenty-two resident magistrates mentioned in the *Dublin Gazette* of 11th instant as qualified under Section 11 of The Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act, 1887, twenty were declared qualified on the dates between 6th December, 1901, and 8th May, 1902; whether he will state the reason why this number of magistrates have been scheduled in Ireland within the period of five months; and, what test or examination must these gentlemen comply with or pass before being declared qualified under the section referred to.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The facts are as stated in the first paragraph. The qualifications of resident magistrates were considered when it seemed probable, owing to an increase in the offence of unlawful assembly, that resident magistrates might have to adjudicate in cases under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act. Of the twenty, fourteen were certified before the issue of proclamations, and six since. The statute declares that the Lord Lieutenant must be satisfied of the legal capacity of one resident magistrate out of the two composing a Court of Summary Jurisdiction under the Act. No test or examination is imposed by statute.

MR. FLYNN: Are not these resident magistrates required to be practising barristers or to be engaged in the practice of the law in some way?

MR. WYNDHAM: I think the statute requires that the Lord Lieutenant shall be satisfied of the sufficiency of their legal knowledge.

Irish Land Purchase Bill.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed with the Land Purchase Acts (Ireland) Amendment Bill in the Autumn session.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have nothing to add to my reply to the similar question addressed to me on the 7th instant by the hon. Member for South Leitrim.†

AN HON. MEMBER: May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman cannot see his way to proceed with the Bill, seeing that he has expressed his willingness to drop the controversial clauses.

MR. WYNDHAM: If the hon. Member will refer to my previous replies he will know as much about the matter as I can tell him.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I based my question on a statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh.

MR. FLYNN: And did not the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh say that he made his statement with official knowledge?

[No answer was returned.]

Coolnamona Bogs.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the town of Maryborough is threatened with a fuel famine, owing to the action of the owner in depriving a number of small tenants of the right they have hitherto enjoyed to cut and sell turf off the bogs of Coolnamona; and, seeing that these tenants had judicial rents fixed, with a right of turbary reserved to them, whether he can take any steps to preserve their rights to these tenants.

MR. WYNDHAM: There is no danger of a fuel famine in Maryborough. If the remainder of the question refers to the cases of some tenants whose rents were fixed on the basis of an undertaking given by the landlord to allow them free turbary for the use of their holdings, I would observe that this undertaking did not extend to the right to sell turf, as alleged. In any case the enforcement of the respective rights of landlord and tenant is not a matter calling for my intervention.

† See preceding volume, p. 938.

Technical Instruction in Ireland.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he has received a copy of a resolution, passed by the Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland on the 24th June, at Maynooth, protesting against the action of the Treasury in withholding or limiting the grant hitherto offered to all local authorities levying a local rate for technical instruction; and will he say what steps he proposes to take to continue the grant asked for in the resolution.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: A Resolution on this subject has been received, and it is now engaging the attention of the Treasury and the Irish Government.

Ben Nevis and Fort William Observatories.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the directors of the observatories at Ben Nevis and Fort William have decided to close them in October next, on account of their inability to maintain them without assistance from the State; and, in view of the value of these observatories in connection with the study of meteorology, will he say whether he can arrange for their whole or partial maintenance.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can only refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave yesterday on this subject. I may, however, add that the Vote which covers this matter was taken on June 12th. It has yet to be reported.

Office of Works Vote.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if facilities can be given to discuss Class 2, Vote 25 (Office of Works), in view of the importance of the subject during the present financial year.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot, at all events for the present, promise time to discuss this Vote, but my right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works is extremely anxious to have the matter debated.

Civil Servants and Political Controversies.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether his attention has been called to the observations on partisanship in members of the Civil Service contained in the Treasury Minute of 12th November 1884, and to the statement that it was intended to embody them on an Order in Council binding on the entire permanent Civil Service of the State; and will he say whether such an Order in Council has in fact been passed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Order in Council of the 29th November, 1884, was made applicable to permanent Civil Servants.

Mr. Balfour's Official Title.

***MR. ALFRED DAVIES** (Carmarthen Boroughs): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury, or the Prime Minister, or the Leader of the House, what is his correct designation; and, secondly, if he can give us any information as to the character of his new administration.

[No answer was returned.]

NEW BILL.**EDUCATION ACT, 1901 (RENEWAL) BILL.**

"To renew The Education Act, 1901," presented by Dr. Macnamara, under Standing Order 31; supported by Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. Channing, Mr. Ernest Gray, Mr. Ernest Flower, Mr. Henry Hobhouse, Mr. Corrie Grant, and Captain Norton; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 280.]

SAVINGS BANKS FUNDS.

Report from the Select Committee with Minutes of Evidence and an Appendix, brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 282.]

SUPPLY.

[EIGHTEENTH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £332,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge for the salaries and miscellaneous charges of the War Office, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1903."

(2.30.) SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick): I rise for the purpose of moving a reduction in this Vote by £100, in order that I may have an opportunity of bringing before the Committee the unfair position in which, as I consider, Sir Redvers Buller has been placed by the partial and unexplained publication of selected telegrams sent by him or received by him. And, in doing so, I desire to say, to prevent misconception, that as regards my colleagues on this Bench they are in no way responsible or committed either by what I have to say or by my raising the question at all. I say that because nothing would be more painful to any friend of Sir Redvers Buller than to suppose that the position of that distinguished man had in any way become the sport of Party politics. I think hon. Members opposite will do the Party on this side of the House the credit to observe that though after his dismissal in the autumn I and some others, moved by feelings either of personal regard or of local sentiment, which is so wonderfully strong in the case of Sir Redvers Buller, did draw attention to the facts in public, yet the heads of the Liberal Party, and the Party as a whole, have done nothing whatever to make it the opportunity of an attack upon the Government. That being so, I take the sole responsibility of what I am going to say and of raising this question at all. And in what I am going to say, I do not wish to impute motives to the Secretary of State for War, the Commander-in-Chief, or to any other individual at the War Office. I think the facts have done great injustice to Sir Redvers Buller, and it is with the facts I have to deal.

My position is shortly this. Many months ago attacks began to be made in the public Press on Sir Redvers Buller's reputation, and those attacks have continued up to the present time. Since these attacks began all the documents, so far as I know, most unfavourable to him have been published. All the documents necessary to him to explain his situation, and the special difficulties against which he had to contend, and the documents which he would have quoted, had he been allowed to put his position fairly before the public, are still kept back. Now, that is what I consider is the unfairness of the position in which Sir Redvers Buller is placed. I say that, in common fairness, after all that has happened, Sir Redvers Buller should be set free to tell his own story, laying the whole of the telegrams affecting his own action before some impartial tribunal. I do not ask the War Office to make more selections and publish them. My case, though I impute no motives, is that on the facts, if the facts were known, it would be recognised that the selections made and published have been most misleading and unjust to Sir Redvers Buller's reputation. Let me say that I am not going to raise any question of military skill. I do not propose to deal with the military operations at Colenso and Spion Kop, which have been the subject of criticism. I am not going to argue whether they were conducted with military capacity and skill. It is not of those criticisms that I complain. Indeed, I do not think this House is in a position to review military questions, which can only be reviewed by military experts, and furthermore, criticisms whether the disposition of forces in the field, or the orders given in the field, on a particular occasion, were the best possible, or whether they failed, are questions with regard to which Sir Redvers Buller can defend himself by writing a narrative if he pleases. As to the publication of the Spion Kop despatches, for instance, Sir Redvers Buller has no cause of complaint, because, after all, they do but show that the previously published criticism which Lord Roberts passed on Sir Redvers Buller had been already positively suggested by Sir Redvers Buller himself in the despatches; but Sir Redvers Buller never asked for the publication of those despatches and is in no way responsible

for them; and as there was no public interest to be served by their publication, I think it was unnecessary cruelty to circulate the criticisms upon other persons who were in no way concerned in the dispute. It is not attacks on Sir Redvers Buller's military operations in the field that I complain of. It is of something much more serious. It is attacks upon his character founded upon telegrams already published. These attacks and criticisms, which are in the public mouth everywhere, amount to this—that after the battle of Colenso Sir Redvers Buller was guilty of a sudden breakdown of nerve, of a failure of moral courage, and of a collapse of character. These are the attacks which I consider unfounded. The answer to them must come from himself, and he is entitled to reserve his answer until he is allowed to publish the documents necessary for his defence. The question I shall end by putting, is this: Has Sir Redvers Buller in this matter of his reputation at stake before the public been treated as a public servant who is attacked should be treated by the Department which ought to protect him? And what were the attacks? Months ago statements began to appear in the public Press, and are continuing still to appear—manifestly originating in a leakage somewhere—of a kind entirely unfavourable to Sir Redvers Buller. This leakage at last came to this, that Sir Redvers Buller discovered that there was known to the Press an inaccurate version of a heliogram which he had sent to Sir George White. Thereupon he naturally expressed the strongest desire to have the accurate version of the heliogram published. Obviously the War Office should have allowed him to produce it.

MR. BRODRICK: May I ask when he expressed that desire?

SIR EDWARD GREY: In his speech for which he was dismissed. I may say, further, that months before that speech he had complained of the leakage, and had found that it was not possible for the War Office to protect him in the matter. Undoubtedly, he did express a desire to be allowed to publish it. Let me point out this document was

not a telegram or a despatch from the Government to Sir Redvers Buller or from Sir Redvers Buller to the Government, nor was it one from a superior officer to him or from him to a superior officer. It was one from him to an officer under his command—from a superior officer to one under his command—and I say that the simple and obvious thing would have been to give him permission to publish the accurate version of the heliogram. But he was not allowed to do so. On the contrary, he was dismissed from his command for having made a speech referring to it, and was distinctly ordered not to publish it or anything further at all. Soon after that, when people thought it was likely that he would take further steps to defend himself, there appeared in the Press a statement—I have particularly in my mind an article in the *Standard*—that if he defended himself further disclosures would have to be made by the Government which would be still more unfavourable to him. It was a most galling thing to have these threats made in the Press. They were widely attributed at the time to official inspiration. I do not bring any charge against the Secretary of State for War or the Commander-in-Chief of having in any way inspired them. But again there was the same leakage of the same unfavourable kind to Sir Redvers Buller which had gone on before. Sir Redvers Buller took no action, but not because of these threats in the Press. Parliament met, and an Amendment was put down to the Address. It was not instigated by Sir Redvers Buller, and the fact that it was not moved was directly due to his influence. The reason was that he was unwilling that there should be in this House any discussion which was likely to embarrass the Government while they were responsible for the conduct of the war. How was the matter next stirred? Again not by him. It was re-opened by the publication of "*The Times History of the War.*" That history repeated the old attacks in a most bitter and concentrated form, and added a new charge. Then Sir Redvers Buller moved. He again appealed to the War Office. "*The Times History of*

the War" purports in its preface—I have no doubt quite truly—to have had help and countenance from official sources. If it had this help from official sources, surely it would have been at least fair that the writer of that history should have been warned that, as Sir Redvers Buller's mouth was closed, by the War Office, and he was prohibited from defending himself, these attacks should be dropped. But instead of that the attacks were made stronger than ever, and a new attack was formulated, which exalted the Government greatly at Sir Redvers Buller's expense. This was that Lord Lansdowne had sent Sir Redvers Buller a telegram ordering him to persevere in the attempt to relieve Ladysmith, and telling him, if not, to give up his command to a junior and return home—about the most ignominious telegram that could be sent by any Government to any commander in the field. Sir Redvers Buller naturally asked the War Office whether this ignominious telegram, as I have called it, really existed, because he had never received it. He got no definite, straightforward reply as to whether that particular telegram referred to in *The Times* existed or not; for the rest he had sent to him by the War Office, with permission—which was really much more a challenge than a permission—to publish them. Sir Redvers Buller never asked for these documents. He asked, in his later correspondence with the War Office, that he might be allowed to publish the correct version of the heliogram to Sir George White, and whether the telegram from Lord Lansdowne, which he had not received, really existed. The answer is that he cannot have access to anything further; but these five telegrams are sent to him under a condition which is really a challenge to publish them, but if he did publish them, to do so textually as they stand, and not to divulge any one separately from the others. What was his reply? His reply was that this he considered an unfair selection as they stand by themselves, that it was bound to do him injustice, and that it was not fair to him to ask him to publish these five telegrams without others. The answer of the War Office was that he could have no others,

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and that the correspondence must cease. I say Sir Redvers Buller was perfectly justified in saying that this was unfair to him, and that he would publish nothing. Anyhow he has never shown any want of moral courage so far as his reputation is concerned. He has always shown that he was never going to shrink from anything, even though it was partial truth; and he published the telegrams as they stood.

Well, now, let us take these five telegrams as they stand. The first is one from Sir Redvers Buller to the Secretary of State for War. I think it would have been fairer that the first one should have been taken in the words he used, and not as a paraphrase, or should not have been published at all. The impression left by that standing alone is that it was a sudden counsel of despair on the part of Sir Redvers Buller, taken in great depression and weakness after his failure at Colenso. Whatever we may think of the policy disclosed in that telegram, that policy was not a sudden counsel of despair on his part, but much more the result of a deliberate view of the situation as he had to face it. The second telegram is one to Sir George White. I do contend that that does not bear out the accusations made against Sir Redvers Buller. Those accusations have been that, in a fit of despair, he ordered Sir George White to surrender, and that Sir George White replied that he could not comply with that order. That is not in the telegram as it stands. There are three things in the telegram. The first is to tell Sir George White that Sir Redvers Buller had failed at Colenso, and that he could not move for a full month. The second is to ask Sir George White whether he can hold out for so long; and the third is to tell him, if not, what he must do in the contingency of surrender. That is the telegram as it stands. Now it is said that that telegram is altered and made stronger by the amended telegram. The only object of amending that telegram, was, first of all, to ask him definitely how many days he could hold out, and next to remind him of the danger of not burning his cipher. On that last point there were special reasons, as Sir Redvers will be able to show, why he thought it important to add that special portion. Anyhow that

is a detail. The main object of the telegram was to ask definitely how many days Sir George White could hold out. As the telegram stands it is assumed that that amended telegram, which is made to read stronger than the original, and which is not the intention of Sir Redvers Buller—that amended telegram was sent off before Sir Redvers Buller received Sir George White's reply, and Sir George White had sent off his reply before he had received the amended telegram. He never acknowledged that amended telegram, but his telegram to Sir Redvers Buller is not quite correctly given in the text of the War Office. Instead of being given "Yours of today," it ought to have been given "Yours No. 88 of today," thereby making it clear that it refers to the first telegram, No. 88, and took no notice of the amended telegram. So that it is the first telegram which plays any part in this affair. Well, now, I will ask the Committee to bear this in mind, that you cannot have a full explanation of the situation without other documents. Sir Redvers Buller is not in a position to disclose other documents. He has been forbidden to do so. The Committee must also bear in mind that all these telegrams were written on the assumption that Ladysmith only had food to last to the end of the year, a fortnight from that time. Had that been true every word in these telegrams would have been regarded universally as the language of a man who had the courage to face the facts and make the best preparations he could to meet them. But it is asked, "Why did he not know, what made him think that Ladysmith had only supplies to the end of the year?" I would like to have Sir Redvers Buller set free to make an answer on that point; to tell us what he knew, or thought he knew, of the state of supplies at Ladysmith; from what source he obtained his information, and why he was reluctant before there was absolute need to put a direct question to Sir George White. As long as he was advancing without check, as long as he expected to be in Ladysmith before the end of the year, it was not absolutely necessary to ask whether the supplies would last to the end of the year, his information being that they would. But the moment he

knew he could not be in Ladysmith, and could not relieve it, before the end of the year, then it had become urgent to ask Sir George White how long his supplies would hold out; and that is the question he asked in his first telegram to Sir George White, and asked a second time in the amended telegram. The second thing to bear in mind is this, that Sir Redvers Buller considered that no troops could be diverted to Natal without creating greater dangers in connection with Cape Colony, Kimberley, and elsewhere. I say that nobody can understand the situation he had to face when these telegrams were sent, without knowing, and knowing very fully, all that had happened since he landed in South Africa, to enable him to judge of the situation which, in his mind, he had to review at the time. I know that universal comment has been made upon these telegrams. I am not surprised at the comments made on these telegrams standing by themselves; but I am surprised that nobody in the public or in this House has had the curiosity to ask what was Sir Redvers Buller's reply to the telegram he received from Lord Lansdowne. What was his reply? He writes the telegram on the assumption that Ladysmith has only food to last to the end of the year, and that he cannot have any more troops for use in Natal, and that the troops he had under his command were not strong enough to relieve Ladysmith. He received in answer to that telegram, first of all, the intimation that Ladysmith can hold out for much longer than the end of the year; secondly, the permission of the Secretary of State for War to take more troops from Cape Colony. And no one has the curiosity or the fairness to ask in what spirit Sir Redvers Buller faced his task, or what difference it made to him when he gets these two pieces of information. That is, partly, the reason why I think, even without knowing or being able to disclose more than the War Office has permitted hitherto to be published, it is fair to demand that Sir Redvers Buller's hands should be set free.

Let me, Sir, sum up this part of the case. In the first place, his first simple demand to publish the correct version of the telegram from him to the officer

under his command, not without provocation, but after a garbled version had already been made public, is refused; secondly, when leave is granted to publish the telegram, other telegrams for which he has never asked are sent to him, with strict instructions to publish them all together textually as they stand; and when he protests that that is not a fair selection, the reply of the War Office is that he can have nothing more, that he can take his choice whether he publishes them or not, and that the correspondence must be broken off; thirdly, all through this matter there has been either a leakage or a publication of everything unfavourable to Sir Redvers Buller, while everything necessary to judge his conduct in a true light and in its proper perspective, and the situation in which he was placed, has been withheld. It has been said that Sir Redvers Buller has been treated with generosity in this matter. I do not think he has been treated with common fairness. To say that he has been treated with generosity is to destroy the meaning of the English language. The War Office have conducted the whole question of his defence in the spirit in which people would have conducted a correspondence against a man who was opposing them. They have conducted the matter as if it were their desire and object to substantiate every charge made against him in public, and not to give him any facilities to answer in defence. That is why I say I ask for no more selections from the War Office. The Secretary of State for War may reply with some force that it is impossible to give an officer in the Army leave to publish at discretion anything he pleases. But these documents might be laid freely before some impartial tribunal which may be trusted by the Government and Sir Redvers Buller, and whose opinion, after having reviewed the case, would be trusted by the country. The Government have said they are going to appoint a Commission of Inquiry into matters connected with the war. I will not say that will meet my point, for I know not who are to compose that Commission; but if it does take place, I assume much of their proceedings will have to be conducted in private, and if it be a fair and impartial tribunal, I see no reason

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why Sir Redvers Buller should not be set free to lay all documents and despatches before a tribunal of that kind. Then let us hear their opinion as to whether justice has been done to him by the publication of selected telegrams. There is one other reason why the Secretary for War might demur to this request which occurs to my mind; he may urge that, if Sir Redvers Buller is given this permission, everybody else who may feel aggrieved by criticisms passed upon his conduct during the course of the war may expect to have the same permission. But, Sir, I do not think this is really a valid reason. In the first place, be it observed, I have not asked that Sir Redvers Buller should submit his military capacity in the field, the merits of his operations, the battle of Colenso, or any of his operations in the field to any tribunal. I have kept all military operations outside of this altogether. But I do say this is an exceptional case as it stands, exceptional, looking to the past services of Sir Redvers Buller, the length of his service, and looking at the high positions he has held, and, above all, exceptional having regard to the nature of the attacks made upon him, and the attitude of the War Office towards him when he asked leave of the War Office to defend himself from these attacks. What I wish to put before the Committee is that, in common fairness, the case ought not to be allowed to rest where it is; and that is the foundation of my demand to the Secretary of State.

Well, that is the statement of the position, so far as it can be made out without the disclosure of further documents. I ask the Committee to support my demand; but I go beyond the Committee. I know that in this matter of Sir Redvers Buller's reputation, the great bulk of the public Press is now adamant. It has condemned him, and apparently is convinced that there is nothing more to be heard or known, that his condemnation is not to be palliated or modified in any way. We are sometimes apt to regard the Press, because it is so impersonal and anonymous, as though writers were not animated by the same feelings, and actuated by the same motives as ourselves. But these attacks were started

in the Press, and have been continued in the Press, by men of the same blood as ourselves, who are open, as we are open, to appeals to chivalry or fairness. However tenacious they may be of their own opinions, and however sure they may be that they are right, I think those who have been the first, the most hasty and emphatic, in passing condemnation upon Sir Redvers Buller, ought to be the first, in common fairness, to support this demand. All the weapons with which he has been attacked have been published and at their disposal, but surely the man who is attacked with those weapons—and by weapons I mean documents—ought to have weapons at his disposal. Once you have the documents published, whether telegrams or despatches, and put a man in the position of having to explain on these, and these alone, without being able to quote from anything else, you put him in an unfair position; and those who have been most strenuous in attacking Sir Redvers Buller, ought to be the first to demand that there should be at his disposal the same power to quote and to bring forward documents as by the action of the War Office they have hitherto had at their disposal.

There is another matter I have to bring before the Committee, and that is the question of the appointment of Sir Redvers Buller to the command of the First Army Corps and his dismissal from that command. With the appointment I have no fault to find—that is my whole case—for if the whole facts were known that would appear a natural and justifiable appointment. If there are any criticisms to be offered on the appointment by people who think otherwise, those criticisms may, of course, tell with force against the Government; but I have no desire to make any points against the Government, except so far as they are points that tend to do Sir Redvers Buller justice. I think the appointment was a natural one. People have now become fascinated by the Ladysmith episode, and their attention has been concentrated upon that; but take the whole of Sir Redvers Buller's services in South Africa. What happened when he landed at the Cape? He found a state of disaster over the whole of South Africa; he landed, as he said

himself, a general without an army; he found everything in a state of collapse, and he, by the courage and decision with which he faced that state of affairs, was the first to restore matters to a better condition. He it was who, on his own responsibility, first took the decision to go to Natal. If he had been responsible for the state of disaster which he found on landing at the Cape, to dwell upon it would do him no good. That, again, is a matter for inquiry. What was responsible for the state of disaster? Remember what the position was. Not only was Ladysmith invested, but the whole of Natal was invaded. Kimberley was in danger; and, what to many thinking minds was far worse, there was a prospect of a rising in Cape Colony, and an invasion of Cape Colony in force by the Boers might have resulted in the complete loss of that colony. Even now there are people who, reflecting on the history of the war, still say that, bad as things were at first, the situation was as nothing to what it would have been had the Boers, instead of concentrating in Natal, made a rush for Cape Town. Sir Redvers Buller had to face that situation. Want of preparation was responsible for it, but who was responsible for the want of preparation?

We can carry that matter no further now; but, in common justice to Sir Redvers Buller, his attitude in that matter at least ought to come before some impartial tribunal. He had to face the situation, and in it he had an almost impossible task. His very failure to overcome the difficulties of his task surely brought experience, and the lessons by which those who came after him could profit, though the brunt of experience fell upon him. All admit that there were lessons to be learned by everybody engaged in the war, but Sir Redvers Buller was the man who, with the fewest troops and confronted with the greatest difficulties, had to face all the novelties of this Boer warfare without any experience to guide him. What did he do? He decided to go to Natal, and he turned the tide of warfare in Natal; because, not only was Ladysmith invested, but 8,000 Boers had advanced beyond Ladysmith, and he was only in the nick of time to drive them back. He went to Natal, not with the main

object of relieving Ladysmith—that was not the most urgent thing—but with the object of saving South Natal—which was the thing that had to be done first—and he succeeded in doing it. What troops had he at his disposal? He could have had but about 20,000 in Natal, and of these 10,000 were required to protect South Natal and his communications; so he had, therefore, only about 10,000 to use against the Boers, who had 8,000 in selected positions to be used freely against him, still leaving force enough to prevent Sir George White leaving Ladysmith. If rumour be true, leaders of the Boers themselves now admit that one of the things in the war that caused them most astonishment and admiration was that Sir Redvers Buller should ever have succeeded, even when he had more troops, in turning their position and relieving Ladysmith. ["Oh, oh."] He did relieve Ladysmith. ["Oh."] It is a common belief, but founded, as I believe, not upon actual facts, that when Lord Roberts landed in South Africa the Boers withdrew from their objective in Natal, and that Sir Redvers Buller's task was thereby made easier. But I believe the converse is much nearer the truth. I believe it was Sir Redvers Buller's operations by keeping the Boer force engaged in Natal, and finally overcoming them, that made the way plain for Lord Roberts to advance to Pretoria in the manner he did. I believe it is an entirely unjust assumption that Lord Roberts relieved Ladysmith by drawing away the Boer forces in Natal. Those forces remained in Natal and were beaten by Sir Redvers Buller. Whatever criticisms are passed upon Spion Kop, Colenso, and other matters, his tactics after the relief of Ladysmith were, by common consent, most masterly and brilliant, and they were successful in driving the Boers out of Natal altogether.

People may say I am giving a partial account, but remember that from first to last Sir Redvers Buller's actions in Natal have never been criticised by the War Office. He was never asked to explain anything. When he came home, he naturally received the thanks of the Government for his public services, and I am not surprised that the command of the First Army Corps was given to him. There is but one criticism I would admit on that appointment; and it is that the Secretary of State for War had previously

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stated that he was going to appoint to these commands officers who would command the troops in the field, and it might have been said that Sir Redvers Buller, by the natural course of years, was reaching the end of his active services, and that, in all probability in future operations, independent commands in the field would be given to younger men. There would be some force in that criticism but for the fact that we naturally expect, if it should be necessary to give commands in the field for active service in future years, that younger men would be chosen who had distinguished themselves in this war. But these men were not at home for the command of the First Army Corps to be given to one of them. If there had been at home any one of the younger men who had distinguished themselves in the war to whom this command could have been given, I admit there would have been some ground for criticism on the appointment. But that was not the case. When Sir Redvers Buller was dismissed the command was given—and I think rightly given—to Sir J. French. But he was not here to take up the command. It was not as if there was any younger or more active man on the staff to whom the Government would wish to give the command, and, therefore, the criticism does not hold.

But though I was not surprised at Sir Redvers Buller's appointment, I am surprised at what followed it. The announcement was that he had been appointed to command the First Army Corps. Then there followed the attacks upon the Government for having appointed him—especially in *The Times*. The Government did not remain quiet under these attacks; they published another announcement, obviously to emphasize the fact that the appointment was to be limited to two years.

MR. BRODRICK: I beg pardon for interrupting, but may I say that that announcement was the only one published by the War Office?

SIR EDWARD GREY: Then how did the newspapers become cognizant of the appointment?

MR. BRODRICK: That I cannot say. I only know that the only announcement made by the War Office was that to which the right hon. Gentleman has just alluded.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The announcement to which I was alluding was given under the head of "Naval and Military Intelligence," and was this:—

"General Sir Redvers Buller has been appointed General on the Staff to command the First Army Corps at Aldershot from October 1."

That is not a War Office announcement, I admit, but I suppose that there again there has been a leakage. Anyhow the actual announcement which followed it was this:—

"We have received the following from the War Office:—'The First and Third Army Corps commands at Aldershot and Dublin respectively will be formed from October 1. Sir Redvers Buller was appointed to the Aldershot district in October, 1893, and his command will run for the two years of his appointment which are still unexpired.'"

The appointments were originally for three years, and there was no limitation to the Duke of Connaught's command in Dublin. The important point was the announcement that Sir Redvers Buller's appointment was to be limited to two years. It is quite true that these were the terms. That is the real appointment which was offered to Sir Redvers Buller, but coming as it did, that announcement produced a most unfortunate impression, because it was taken by *The Times* and other papers as an apology by the War Office for the appointment. The War Office having made the first announcement, I cannot complain of them for having omitted the two years limitation in the first announcement, but I do think the right hon. Gentleman opposite must see that, in view of the fact that no explanation was given to Sir Redvers Buller, and that his appointment was first announced without this explanation, and then when particularly galling attacks were made upon him, and attention was specially drawn in the Press to this statement, it was treated in *The Times* as a confession and avoidance, anyone must feel that nothing could have been more galling to a man in Sir Redvers Buller's position than to feel that having been exposed to these attacks he was not going to be supported by his superiors at the War Office. As far as he knew it must have appeared to him that having been appointed to this command, the Government were practically apologising

for the appointment. That is the way it was treated by the public press, and I bring it forward to show that when Sir Redvers Buller made his speech, he did not make it without being under very natural and inevitable provocation. He made his speech, and he was dismissed because of that speech. That was the official announcement. Nobody questioned the right of the Secretary of State for War to remove a General from his command, but I cannot believe that Sir Redvers Buller was removed from the position after that length of service simply because the Secretary of State, or the Commander-in-Chief, did not approve of the tone or temper of that speech. That cannot be the real reason, because the speech discussed no question of policy. It reflected neither upon the Government nor upon any other officer in the Army, nor upon any human being whatever, and though Sir Redvers Buller in that speech defended himself, he withheld everything in his speech which could have in any way touched the conduct of any other man, and it was made in the face of violent provocation. I cannot believe that after that length of service a mere indiscretion, mere faults of tone or temper, or want of judgment, were the real reasons for the dismissal. The dismissal was peremptory, and if it was not for indiscretion it must have been for a serious breach of military regulations. What were the breaches of military regulations? That is the point that I wish to put to the Secretary of State for War. If there were breaches, why were they not made known? Why was there no military tribunal to try the question of military law! If it was a dismissal solely on the ground of the speech, taking the speech by itself it seems to me that to dismiss such a man from such an office for that speech was harsh conduct beyond parallel. Some of this injury—I would ask the Committee to bear in mind again that I am criticising, of course, a Department which has it in its power to withhold what it pleases, or publish what it pleases, and I can add nothing to what the War Office has published—some of this injury to Sir Redvers Buller's reputation is beyond remedy; the harsh and peremptory dismissal is quite beyond remedy

and beyond recall; but the worst injury is that which is done to a distinguished reputation. I am fully aware of the difficulty of overtaking an injustice of this kind. When it is once set going it speeds swiftly everywhere, gathers force as it goes, lodges itself in every mind, and impresses in the mind of every man the point of view which is prepared to repel any explanation or justification on the part of the man attacked, for fear the injustice itself will be dislodged. Nothing is more tenacious of life than a prejudice of this kind against a man when once it has obtained a start, but that is no reason why it should be submitted to, or why he and his friends should not do the utmost in their power to demand that the case shall not rest where it is. I have been told that it is contrary to the interests of discipline that a case of this kind should be brought before the House. I do not think it is. The abuse of discipline is its worst enemy, and there are times when abuses of that kind must be brought before the House of Commons, because it is the only tribunal before which they can come. Whether the Secretary of State will do what is still possible and set Sir Redvers Buller free to state his case and the facts to support it, I cannot tell, but this I trust—and I think it is one justification for raising this debate—that the mere fact of this debate having taken place will render it less likely in the future that any man such as Sir Redvers Buller, or any public servant in his position, should be treated as he has been treated when he appeals for protection to a public Department which he has served.

Motion made, and Question put, "That Item A (Salaries of the Staff) be reduced by £100, in respect of the Salary of the Secretary of State."—(*Sir Edward Grey.*)

(3.22.) SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton) said that amidst all the controversy which had been raised around this question, there was one feeling which would be shared by everyone to whom the reputation of the British Army was dear, namely, a feeling of profound regret that one who had had such a splendid career, a man who had commanded the confidence and devotion, almost more than any one else, of the British Army, a man fearless and gallant, high-minded and humane, should have had his career

cut short and brought to a sudden and disastrous termination under circumstances so peculiarly painful. He was sure that no one shared that regret more fully than the Commander-in-Chief and the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War, upon whom rested the great responsibility of dealing with this question, and of judging what would be the effect on the Army and the public of reading that speech, and deciding what course should be taken in consequence of that speech, now that the question had been brought before the House of Commons. Everybody must feel that it was a great responsibility to bring a question involving the discipline of the Army before the House. The question, however, was one of such extended interest, raising so many different and complicated issues, increased by the great popularity of Sir Redvers Buller, that it was bound to come sooner or later before the House, and, therefore, he was very thankful that the task of bringing it forward had fallen to his right hon. friend the Member for Berwick, and that it had not been left to someone less competent to deal with it. There was no doubt that the ultimate appeal lay to Parliament in everything that affected the interests of the British nation and the British Army. Parliament had made itself very responsible of late for the Army, and the discipline of the Army, and, therefore, it was necessary that the greatest caution should be exercised on a matter affecting discipline, and that it should not be dragged into the arena of party politics, or made the subject of a Party vote. Keeping these considerations in view, he thought they were entitled to ask his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War what were the grounds of Sir Redvers Buller's dismissal in November last, what military regulations had been contravened, what danger to the State or the Army was apprehended from the formulation of that speech, and what were the specific allegations made against him in regard to it? He did not think it was sufficient to say it was simply the tone of the speech which rendered the continuance of Sir Redvers Buller in office impossible any longer. They also wanted to know whether allowances were made for the difficult position in which he was placed, and did he receive from the War Office the support which a man selected by the War Office for a

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most responsible position ought to receive. Was he called upon to justify his conduct and explain the allegations made against him?

He now came to the question of the prohibition of the publication of the telegrams. Naturally, after what had happened in regard to the dismissal, he was anxious to set himself right. Meetings had been held in Hyde Park and all over the country, but in face of all this, when Sir Redvers Buller spoke at the Devonshire dinner his speech was a model of dignity and reserve. Attacks began to appear in the Press, but Sir Redvers Buller took a strong line considering that the war was still going on, for he considered that the Government should not be hampered or damaged by his opinions being given at a difficult time. He believed that General Buller would have been silent now but for the publication of "*The Times History*." The telegrams, too, had been published in a form calculated to do him a great injustice. They now asked that Sir Redvers Buller should be set free to tell the whole of his case before an impartial tribunal. As the Government had promised an inquiry into the conduct of the war, surely they could not refuse permission to their own Commander-in-Chief in South Africa to come before the tribunal when he asked that his conduct should be inquired into. They wanted to know why he was condemned, and they wished him to be given the opportunity of clearing himself at an early date. There was the greatest danger, he thought, of injustice being done to Sir Redvers Buller in the present temper of the country and the Press by prominence being given to these telegrams after Colenso, which, after all, were but incidents in a far greater campaign, carried to a successful issue. No doubt he made mistakes both abroad and at home. Wellington said that the greatest general was the general who made the fewest mistakes. He did not claim for Sir Redvers Buller that he was perfect, but, looking at the whole situation, the difficulties he had to encounter, and the success he had achieved, and looking at his past history, which was one of the grandest in the records of the British army, they had a right to ask, and they did ask, that he should be treated with the fullest consideration, and that justice, as far as possible, should be done to him.

(3.32.) MR. BRODRICK: I will make no complaint of the tone with which the right hon. Gentleman opposite and my right hon. friend behind me have addressed themselves to this subject, and I fully re-echo the regret expressed by my right hon. friend that such a man as Sir Redvers Buller should become the subject of such a debate. But I also regret that, after this great lapse of time, such a Motion should be brought before the House this afternoon. I cannot but think that, in matters of discipline, rare should be the occasions when the House of Commons undertakes to review the action of the military authorities. Especially in prominent cases of this kind I cannot help thinking that the earlier such points are brought to settlement the better. Sir Redvers Buller was relieved of his command in October last. This House met early in January; a Motion was at once tabled by the hon. Member for the South Molton Division, challenging the decision of the Commander-in-Chief, and the action of the Government. That Motion, I think, should have been brought to a hearing at once. To hang over the Commander-in-Chief and the military authorities a Motion of that kind is calculated, in the highest degree, to create divisions in the army. It is calculated to impair discipline; and, whether it is the wish of the officer whom it concerns or not, I think once put before the House for consideration it should be brought up for judgment and decision. I regret this Motion for two other reasons. In the first place I cannot recall a single occasion on which a personal Motion of this character, impeaching the action of the authorities in so grave a matter—even after the most earnest consideration—has resulted to the advantage of the individual on whose behalf it has been brought forward. And I regret it on my own behalf, because there has been no one more willing than I have been to follow the example set by my noble friend Lord Lansdowne, in taking full responsibility for anything that has gone wrong in the war on the shoulders of the Government, and for supporting in the face of this House the generals who represented us. But a Motion of this kind, which, although the language used has been to a large extent the language of reserve, traverses the whole field from the

arrival of Sir Redvers Buller in Natal down to his dismissal from Aldershot, and even of the more recent correspondence, makes it incumbent on me to withdraw from that position of reticence out of respect to Parliament, and to show the House that, so far from the Government having, in any degree, been actuated by any of the prejudice which has been imputed to them outside, and to some extent in the speeches made tonight, they have, if anything, erred on the side of too great consideration in their treatment of Sir Redvers Buller.

In two special points an attack has been made upon me which I should like to clear away before I go into the general question. The right hon. Gentleman opposite based his argument in the earlier portion of his speech on the partial publication of selections from despatches which, he argued, placed the conduct of Sir Redvers Buller in a most unfavourable light. The responsibility for that rests not upon the Government but upon Sir Redvers Buller himself. Two publications and two only have been made. The one was the publication of the suppressed portion of the Spion Kop despatches—the portion suppressed not in the interest of the Government at all, but solely to preserve Sir Redvers Buller from those strictures on his conduct in the field that Lord Roberts had thought it necessary to pass upon him. The right hon. Gentleman said that Sir Redvers Buller had never asked for the publication of that additional portion of the Spion Kop despatches. I think he must have forgotten Sir Redvers Buller's letter to the First Lord of the Treasury, dated 24th March last, in which he says—

“With regard to the continuance of what you describe as reticence, I am not in a position to offer an opinion beyond expressing a pious hope that, if any further publication is intended, my words may be published as written, and without manipulation, and that the opportunity will be taken to correct, in this respect, previous publications.”

That was an invitation to the Government, as direct as anything could be, to publish that portion of the Spion Kop despatches which had previously been suppressed. With that invitation in front of us we were not going to sit down under the imputation of unjustly prejudicing Sir Redvers Buller any longer. The reason for reticence had passed away, and the time had come

when it was necessary to show to the country, as was shown by the universal consent of everybody, that, if anything, Sir Redvers Buller had been the gainer and not the loser by the suppression. And, now, how does the publication of these last four telegrams stand? “*The Times History*” made two allegations. Those allegations, by distortion of language which seems to me extraordinary from one so careful as the right hon. Gentleman opposite, were stated to be attributed to the official inspiration of His Majesty's Government.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I said the volume purported to be an official account.

MR. BRODRICK: Let me read what was the purport of the volume as stated.

“My thanks,” says the author, “are due first of all to the Army collectively. To all its members, from its official heads down to the private in the ranks, I owe a great debt of gratitude for the kindness and willingness to help they have invariably shown.”

That general expression of thanks to everybody in the army, from its official heads down to the private in the ranks, for their willingness to help, has been distorted into the giving of access to the compilers of this History to confidential information, which they otherwise would not have obtained. Strange as that interpretation is, the refutation of it is found on the face of the telegrams as published. What is Sir Redvers Buller's complaint? His complaint is first, that an inaccurate account of the heliogram to Sir George White finds its place in the History; and, secondly, that a telegram, which he considers to be wholly false, was also attributed to him. Where is the official inspiration? How is official inspiration substantiated by Sir Redvers Buller's charges? The very inaccuracy of these accounts carries on the face of it the refutation of the idea that the War Office, the Government, or any Member of it, inspired any portion of that History. I would also, in reference to the attack that has been made, correct the account which the right hon. Baronet has given of the circumstances under which these telegrams were published. Sir Redvers Buller wrote to me, and claimed that his legal advisers or himself should have access to the secret documents of the War Office, for the purpose of preparing his defence. I

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declined to allow it. If anybody was to have access to those documents, the House of Commons had the first right. If Sir Redvers Buller and his advisers were to have access, then the legal advisers of the other side would, no doubt, have claimed, in due course, that they should have access. I asked Sir Redvers Buller to tell us, with every desire to do him justice, what were the points, and between what dates statements had been made with regard to him in "*The Times History*," which he desired to correct. With some difficulty, I secured from him a request, strictly limited to the publication of the heliogram to Sir George White, and to the statement as to whether or not a telegram, which Lord Lansdowne was reported by "*The Times History*" to have sent to him ordering him either to fight or to give over his command, had been sent. I took the only course which was possible for a Minister to take if such publication was to be permitted. I told Sir Redvers Buller, with the full assent of my colleagues, that he could have the heliogram if he thought its publication would in any way clear his character, but that in justice to Sir George White, Sir George White's reply to the heliogram ought to be published at the same time. The second point was the publication of Lord Lansdowne's telegram. It is true that Lord Lansdowne did not send the exact telegram which "*The Times History*" attributed to him. On the other hand, he did send a telegram urging Sir Redvers Buller to make a fresh attempt to relieve Ladysmith, and had I written to say that Lord Lansdowne had sent no such telegrams "*The Times History*" attributed to him, I should have been misleading the public by leading them to believe that no situation had arisen between the Government and Sir Redvers Buller, which made it necessary for Lord Lansdowne to urge him to make a special effort to relieve Ladysmith. Again, I sent him the telegram; I told him it was the only telegram we could trace, and, so far from refusing point blank to answer, I told him that it was the only telegram, and I presumed it to be the telegram to which "*The Times History*" inaccurately alluded. I said that if he wished to publish that telegram, which was a reply, he should publish also the telegram of His Majesty's

Government which brought that about. And I added that as these telegrams had never been given to Parliament, if we published one we must publish all.

Sir, I have no apology to make. Now, one word before I pass away from the right hon. Gentleman's speech to the more important subject referred to later on. As to leakage, a good deal has been made of the apparent leakage of this heliogram. The heliogram was sent to Sir George White at a very critical period, and it was of so extraordinary a nature that it was not believed in Sir George White's camp that it had been intended to be sent by Sir Redvers Buller to Sir George White. If it leaked at all it was because, as I have been informed by officers who were actually there at the time, it was believed that the heliogram had been sent owing to our cypher having been captured by the Boers. And the heliogram was known to a large number of persons, to a considerable number in Ladysmith. I am absolutely convinced that no leakage of the heliogram ever took place at the War Office. There has been but one copy of that heliogram in the War Office; that copy remained under lock and key in my safe from the date on which I received it from Sir George White, after I took up office, until the date on which I interviewed Sir Redvers Buller after he was relieved of his command at Aldershot. I am absolutely convinced that as far as we are concerned there was no leakage whatever. I do not believe that, seeing the large number of secret and confidential telegrams that have passed, and the time—over two years—that elapsed, there has ever been a public office that has more carefully safeguarded its telegrams than the War Office has done during this campaign.

Now, I am told that Sir Redvers Buller's position could not be made altogether clear without a further publication. I feel the greatest difficulty in what I am going to say, but it is imperative for me to say it. In the first place I cannot publish documents which, in the opinion of the Government are likely to embarrass us in our future operations. If any documents are to be published at the instance of the General who considers himself to be aggrieved, it would be impossible to

make a selection. What was left out we should unquestionably be urged to publish, as it might be felt, and felt honestly, that something had been kept back which would have elucidated the general position if it had been published. There is no alternative as between publishing no telegram and publishing all; and if we are to publish all let me ask the Committee to consider what is the position which the General Officer Commanding occupies in regard to the Secretary of State for War in a campaign. He is asked to communicate confidentially on every kind of subject; he is continually asked his private opinions of the capacity and probable achievements, as well as the past achievements, of the officers under his command; and he telegraphs with the firmest belief that those private informations will never see the light. They are in the nature of the most confidential advices between two men—one of whom, in behalf of the Government, is responsible for ordering operations which may tend to great loss of life, and the other who is responsible for carrying them out to the best of his ability. If I were to publish all these confidential documents solely for the purpose of relieving Sir Redvers Buller from the stigma which he feels to have fallen on his character, I should, I honestly believe, be sapping the whole confidence which exists between Commanders in the field and the Government they serve, and never again would a Commander feel that he could speak confidentially, openly and frankly, without the fear that two or three years afterwards what he had said, possibly opinions he had given which he had long since seen reason to change, would be given to the world, to the detriment of the officers whom he had to criticise. And do not let it be supposed that I am making this plea in order to protect the Government as against Sir Redvers Buller. May I put this question to the Committee—Can any publication of documents possibly relieve Sir Redvers Buller of criticism which has been passed upon him with regard to special events in the campaign? Could any publications of documents, or any number of papers, alter the fact of the attack upon Colenso, universally admitted by all military men to have been ill-conceived and ill-executed, and could any publication of Papers

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lessen Sir Redvers Buller's responsibility for the abandonment of the guns after Colenso? Could any publication of papers do away with the painful feeling excited by the proposal to surrender Ladysmith without further combat, after one ineffectual attempt? Recollect what the circumstances were. The right hon. Gentleman has put the position of the Boers, I will put the position of the British Army. On the 16th December Sir Redvers Buller surmised that he had been faced by 20,000 Boers in that position. On the 16th there were 12,000 British troops in Ladysmith, and there were 18,000 British troops in front of Colenso, the whole of the Aldershot troops—with the exception perhaps of the Guards and the Highlanders—the very flower of the British Army, and the whole of the Aldershot staff; there was another division of 8,000 men to be landed within two or three days; there was another division of 8,000 men just embarking from England; there were troops concentrating in South Africa from all parts of the world; there were supplies to be got from two-thirds of the loyal Colony of Natal at the back of the General, and there was a railway running straight up to the very centre of the position which was under the guns of the enemy. Sir, the proposal, under these circumstances, after one failure, to surrender 12,000 British troops without another blow would, if carried out, have produced a disaster for which there is no parallel in the history of this country. And, if the Government had consented to it, it would have brought upon us the reproach of our children, and our children's children into the third and fourth generation. Nothing which can be shown in any Papers can lessen the effect of these regrettable events.

I pass now to those questions on which Papers have already been given to the House. Can any further publication of papers remove from the people of this country their feelings with regard to what I cannot but call the muddle of Spion Kop, carried out under the eyes, and as we contend, and as the Commander-in-Chief contends, under the direct control of Sir Redvers Buller? But I admit, and I

gladly pay him that tribute, that from the moment he took command in order to retire the troops, he performed that most difficult operation with the spirit, energy and generalship which we had expected of him. Still, can any publication excuse the fact that mistake after mistake was made upon those days, and that the General in whom the Government had placed their whole confidence, and to whom they had unstintingly given every support in men and in material that he could ask, had failed in that vital case to carry out the operation as might have been expected? When I look at those facts I cannot help asking myself whether it is not a strong assumption for the right hon. Gentleman to make that further publication will relieve Sir Redvers Buller of the responsibility which has now been put upon him. I am bound now to mention another fact. The right hon. Gentleman said that nothing could be assumed against the General until we had heard him as to why he thought it necessary to try to relieve Ladysmith before the end of December. One of the most extraordinary facts in the whole of this tangled statement is this, that Sir Redvers Buller when telegraphing to Sir George White on 16th of December, and asked him how long he could hold out, and suggesting to him the operations he should carry out if he could not hold out, actually had in his possession at the moment Sir George White's own statement, sent to him on the 30th of November, that he could hold Ladysmith with full provisions for seventy days. ["Oh, oh."] I have Sir George White's heliogram, dated 30th November, to General Buller to be repeated to General Clery—

"I have provisions for seventy days, and believe that I can defend Ladysmith while they last."

And yet fifteen days afterwards a note of despair is sounded by Sir Redvers Buller, the superior officer. I cannot help attaching more weight than the right hon. Gentleman does to the loss of nerve of the General who, having that fact before him, hastened to anticipate so disastrous a calamity. I am asked to give a Committee of Inquiry, in order that all these points may be made clear. Sir, I cannot and will not admit the contention of the

right hon. Gentleman that Sir Redvers Buller is to be treated exceptionally in this matter. As Secretary of State for War, I have to consider the interests and the feelings, not of one officer only, but of all. Sir Redvers Buller is not the only General who, to our regret, has lost reputation during the war. He is not the only officer who has come to us and asked for some inquiry or to be allowed to justify himself in the Press. More than one officer appealed to us, not against the strictures of the Government, but against the strictures of Sir Redvers Buller. How am I to provide special machinery for the examination of the case of Sir Redvers Buller while I deny it to those who have lost as much or more, and whose honour and reputation are as dear to them as the honour and reputation of Sir Redvers Buller are to him and his friends? The answer to all that is this. The House has been told there is to be a Committee of Inquiry. That Committee, it is to be hoped, will take evidence in these important but delicate matters in private. I earnestly hope, on behalf of the Army, that what concerns the conduct of the generals throughout the campaign may be heard with closed doors. Beyond that we cannot go. To admit that any officer who feels aggrieved by the impression produced on the public by his action, or by publication which he himself has asked for, is then to have the right to claim a special court of inquiry would be to reopen every kind of difficulty at the close of the campaign.

I pass from that to discuss the question of Sir Redvers Buller's speech. I am blamed, not by the right hon. Gentleman but in many quarters, for having allowed Sir Redvers Buller to be appointed to the First Army Corps. I will tell the Committee perfectly frankly what occurred in regard to that appointment. After the telegrams had been published, a large portion of those who had previously believed that Sir Redvers Buller had been hardly treated turned round and asked why it was that the Government did not take immediate steps for his recall after the battle of Colenso. The position after the battle of Colenso was a most difficult one, and gave the Government the gravest concern in regard to the future operations.

in Natal. I cannot deny that the confidence of the Government in Sir Redvers Buller's initiative had been shaken, both by the method of his attack on Colenso and by the telegrams he sent subsequently to its failure. But, on the other hand, will the Committee consider what were the difficulties of replacing him at that moment? Sir George White, his second in command, was shut up in Ladysmith. Sir Archibald Hunter, the Chief of the Staff, was also shut up in Ladysmith. Of the three divisional generals, Lord Methuen had just sustained a severe reverse, General Gatacre had also in the same week suffered, and General Clery had had no opportunity of securing for himself any special confidence in the conduct of the campaign. I mean no disrespect. I mean simply that he had had no opportunity up to that moment. I do not think that his division had ever been actually engaged under his command. This is a serious matter. No other officer was then in Natal or South Africa who had ever commanded a large body of troops. General French had not had time to establish the great reputation which he has since fortunately added to the annals of our Army. Neither General Lyttelton nor General Hildyard had ever conducted a whole brigade into action. To pass by them, to pass by Sir Redvers Buller and to give the command to a man unless the Government had supreme confidence that they were improving the position, would have been a folly which could not have been condoned. Let it be remembered, moreover, that Sir Redvers Buller's troops knew nothing of any discouragement he may have felt. Not merely after the battle of Colenso, but up to the day he entered Ladysmith, the General still retained the confidence of his troops, and perhaps the most important element next to good strategy in the selection of a good general still remained to Sir Redvers Buller. Then there was a question of sending an officer out from England. The disaster took place upon a Friday. No ship sailed till the following Saturday week. Something like four weeks must have elapsed before an officer in England could have arrived to take command. Thus half the time that Sir G. White informed us that Ladysmith could hold out would have gone, and no general,

however loyal and devoted, could have been expected to risk his army on fresh plans and lines at a moment when he was liable to have the command taken out of his hand, in case he made a disposition absolutely contrary to what the officer who was to succeed him would approve. The Government may have been wrong; but the course they took was, I think, defensible and arguable. They adjured General Buller to persevere; they relieved him of the supreme command in South Africa, and they sent out Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener to undertake the general conduct of the campaign. What followed? I am asked again, why was Sir Redvers Buller still allowed to continue in command after the battle of Spion Kop? The answer to that is that the despatches which gave us the full report of the battle of Spion Kop never came to hand in this country until after the relief of Ladysmith; and after the relief of Ladysmith it was felt that the force in Natal, which had done such desperate fighting under Sir Redvers Buller's command, and which now became an integral portion of Lord Roberts's army, could still be conducted, by the orders from headquarters which Lord Roberts sent to his various generals.

Perhaps I ought to say that when Lord Roberts came home the Government showed their sense of the merits of the various commanders by asking Lord Kitchener to undertake the command instead of Sir Redvers Buller. Sir Redvers Buller, on his return, was sent back, as other generals were, to the command he had held before he went out. I do not defend that system. In no other war should the system ever be adopted of keeping open commands for officers who may go into the field, and who on coming home may be found to be in a position of doubt as to whether they should be in actual command. The position which I found in November, 1900, when I became Secretary of State for War, was that Lord Roberts had continued to employ General Buller in the field in command of a large body of troops for eight months after the battle of Spion Kop, and that Lord Wolseley had recommended his return to his peace command at Aldershot. The army corps system was introduced in October 1, 1901. The

army corps system made less change in the Aldershot command than in any other. The district was the same, and the troops were the same, but the powers were large. It was not a question of appointing Sir Redvers Buller, it was a question of dismissing him. I had no ground whatever for his dismissal. It was perfectly true that I had given a pledge to Parliament that the command of the army corps should be given to men who were intended to conduct an army corps in the field. I adhere to that pledge. But in this particular case, in which an officer was already in possession, in which the troops who formed the army corps were not there, although the troops in the command were just as numerous as the other troops who had been trained in drafts and sent out to South Africa, and above all, when the officer who could have replaced General Buller was not available and could not be withdrawn from South Africa, I could only have removed Sir Redvers Buller—in order to make good my pledge—by substituting for him an officer of less experience who would not have been recommended by Lord Roberts for the command of the First Army Corps in the field. If I erred, I accept the responsibility. I knew Sir Redvers Buller to be a good peace commander. Of course, I mean no disrespect. I mean that I knew him to be thoroughly acquainted and conversant, perhaps more than any other officer in the Army, with the duties which a general has to perform in a large camp in time of peace. I knew that he possessed the confidence of the troops; and if I had gone out of my way at that moment to bring an impeachment against him for operations which had taken place nearly two years before, it would not have been merely unsustainable in any Court before which he could have been brought, but it would have been denounced by the feeling throughout the Army. It is true that the official announcement made it clear that General Buller's period of command was to complete the five years for which he had been appointed in 1898. That is so, and I think that any consideration I could show him under the circumstances was not thrown away. Now, sir, I come to the question of General

Buller's speech. I am brought to book because it is alleged that but for the outcry made in the newspapers this speech would have passed without notice. I entirely deny it. I will show step by step that that speech could not be disregarded without sacrificing all the best traditions of the Army, and also without involving us in the gravest difficulties at home. In the first place, it was a grave breach of the King's regulations, which lay it down that an officer whose character or conduct as an officer or a gentleman has been impugned should appeal to his commanding officer. Sir Redvers Buller's appeal lay to the Commander-in-Chief. He did not appeal to the Commander-in-Chief. He decided, instead, to appeal to the public. That was a grave breach of the regulations. The regulations preclude the discussion of orders given by superior authority. Sir Redvers Buller discussed in public his own fitness for the command which he had just been ordered by superior authority to assume. I cannot imagine anything more fatal to discipline than that an officer going down to take up his command should proceed, as Sir Redvers Buller did, to address a public audience on his own fitness for that position. The regulations preclude the publication of secret documents. Sir Redvers Buller undertook to publish a telegram, which the Government in this House had already refused to publish; and his conduct was just as prejudicial to discipline as the publication itself could have been. The right hon. Gentleman said that no individual was involved in the speech. I entirely differ from him. There was an allusion in the speech to an order which the Commander-in-Chief had given that Sir Redvers Buller should withdraw a certain instruction issued to the Artillery at Aldershot. Sir Redvers Buller discussed an interview which he said he had had with an unknown individual, who, he said, was a spy and who came to warn him that he had enemies who wanted to get him out of the way, and who particularly said—"You had an order about artillery the other day. Well," continued the spy, "you have enough money to live upon; give up the Aldershot command." Sir Redvers Buller replied—"Thank you very much, why should I?" The spy

said—"You have got enemies, men who mean to get you out of the way; they will get you out of the way, and you had better get out of it quickly." Sir Redvers Buller said—"If it is necessary for me to use that information, I shall." The headquarters of the Army issued an order cancelling Sir Redvers Buller's instruction about artillery. He takes the warning of a spy who tells him he has enemies who are determined to ruin him. What enemies? Obviously enemies at the headquarters of the Army who were issuing instructions which were likely to do him harm. I cannot conceive anything which is less calculated to promote discipline in a great command than that the officer in command of it should publicly announce an extraordinary story of this kind as bearing upon his relations with the headquarters staff. Then there was a further and, I think, most injudicious allusion to an order issued to him by the Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, if necessary not to shrink from losing 2,000 or 3,000 men in his attempt to relieve Ladysmith. Sir Redvers Buller had asked whether, if it needed such a loss, he should persevere; and Lord Roberts replied that Ladysmith must be relieved even at that loss.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Read the whole of the telegram.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): Will the right hon. Gentleman publish the whole of the telegram?

MR. BRODRICK: It has been already published in the despatches.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Has the whole or only an extract been published?

MR. BRODRICK: So far as I know, the whole of the despatches have been published. I am not aware of any despatch published which has not been given in full. Sir Redvers Buller further said—

"If I ever displayed rash or great courage it was when, having in my pocket the very telegram which was talked about, in which I was ordered to lose 2,000 or 3,000 men, I decided to withdraw my troops because I did not think I could lose them to any advantage."

Mr. Brodrick.

Here, again, what is to be thought of a discipline under which after an officer has been ordered not to shrink from losing 2,000 or 3,000 men he goes to a public audience and boasts of the courage which decided him to withdraw his troops without risking them? But those are subsidiary points. What is really the important point is this—who, having read that speech, full of indiscretion as it was, could not but feel that there was displayed in it throughout a want of temper and judgment which threw grave doubts on General Buller's capacity for command? Can any one doubt the example which was set to junior officers of the Army by a man who had set the King's regulations aside, ventilated his grievances in public, and while denouncing the qualifications of others extolled his own qualifications for the most important command in this country? But even the terms of his speech were not the most important element in deciding the Government to take action upon it. Those speeches are calculated in the highest degree to prejudice the British Army in a campaign. When Sir Redvers Buller returned home he came to see me, and told me in a conversation, of which I reminded him on October 17th last, that he intended to make certain speeches about the campaign. I warned him with all the earnestness which I could command that such speeches would not be permitted by any officer who had been engaged in South Africa. I mentioned to the House a few moments ago that there were other aggrieved officers who desired to make speeches. When I came into office I found recriminations rampant between certain officers as to what had occurred in Natal, and loud words, hard words, were passing on paper with regard to those transactions. I believe that no one in my position could have done otherwise than I did in making it perfectly clear to all the officers concerned that any attempt to further discuss their grievances in public would meet with disciplinary action by the Commander-in-Chief. Officers report what has taken place in the field. Superior officers comment on the reports. The Government decides. The incident must close there. If every man who thinks his character impugned.

comes home and appeals to the Press and public against his superiors, who, possibly, may at the moment be still fighting in the field, the conduct of a campaign becomes impossible. If I, disregarding the Commander-in-Chief's advice, had allowed the recriminations to proceed, I should not only have taken a step that would have been fatal to the discipline of the Army, but should have allowed the British Army to become the laughing-stock of the world. After telling other officers that they would be removed from the service if they took the action taken by Sir Redvers Buller, how could we overlook the most distinguished general in the most distinguished command without admitting—what, indeed, is proposed to us to admit this afternoon—that there is one set of regulations for the rest of the British Army and another for Sir Redvers Buller?

Now, Sir, I deeply regret that it has fallen to me to make a statement which must so seriously affect the feelings of all those who have interests in the Army and which must so seriously affect the conduct of one of our most distinguished generals. I can only say that it is the first time that any man standing at this table, during all the chequered experiences and the exciting moments of the last three years, has said one single word which reflected on the character or conduct of Sir Redvers Buller. But I think that, after the insinuations which have been made, it would have been a breach of faith and truth to the House if I had not told the story of the campaign and the true facts as they have affected the general. I can honestly say I have never discharged in this House a more painful or a more ungrateful task. I do not think any man ever had a more cruel duty than that which—with the full assent of all my colleagues—fell to me last October of removing and practically closing the career of a soldier who for more than forty years had commanded so high a measure of public confidence. I have known Sir Redvers Buller with all the intimacy of official converse for more than fifteen years. I have always been on terms of cordiality with him until the last few months. Until he went to South Africa I was

constantly a guest at his house and he at mine; and, without agreeing with him always, I can honestly say I recognised the force of his character and his rare gift of impressing men, and I felt his failures in Natal to be a private grief as well as a public calamity. But I think that in such circumstances as these no private feelings and no past history justifies us in keeping an officer in his command when his control of it has ceased to be an advantage to the country. In allowing Sir Redvers Buller to continue to complete his time in October last we endeavoured to show the consideration due to his long years of service and his eminent qualities. I wish that the controversy with regard to him should be allowed to close with the present debate. I would far rather that the recollection of Sir Redvers Buller's services should rest not on these last few months of storm and stress and unsatisfied expectations, but rather on the long years of energy, and courage, and of zeal for reform, at a time when Army reform was not so popular as it is now, which, obtained for him, perhaps, the highest thing a soldier can wish for—namely, not merely the confidence of the Government he serves, but also the confidence of the troops he has to lead. I believe, for my part, that it would be for the General's advantage that this controversy should be allowed to close. I ask it still more on behalf of the Army and the country. The reputations of our great military leaders are not merely the property of their friends; they are also, in a peculiar degree, the possession of their fellow-countrymen. It rarely happens to a statesman to take action for his country with the united feeling of the whole Empire at his back, as has been the case of those who have led our armies in South Africa in the course of the last three years. Sir Redvers Buller's failure, so far as it was a failure, has been an uncounted loss to his fellow-countrymen. His gain would have been our gain, his reputation was our reputation, and his loss has been our loss. I cannot help wishing that the House would allow me to deprecate the undue continuance of this public recrimination about individual episodes, the effects of which are equally damaging to all of us. Do not let the House suppose that I

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deprecate examination. The teachings of the war are being taken to heart; they will reform the whole fabric of our military system. Let the Commission do its part to assist us. Let it examine every detail. For my part, I shall give it every assistance in my power. Is it too much to ask on behalf of the Army that we should now, or very shortly, close these public discussions of our less fortunate military achievements, that we should leave the consideration of reputations which have been damaged, and concentrate ourselves on learning by what has passed, reconstituting our military fabric with the assistance of those great colonies who have come to our aid?

I end, as I began, by deploring the necessity for this debate. I regret what it has been necessary for me to say in the course of the debate, and I appeal to the House that discussion on these things, which tend to damage us at home and disparage us abroad, may now be allowed to close. So far as the Government are concerned, we have done our best to discourage them. All along we have practised reticence; we have taken the whole blame on our shoulders for what has gone wrong; and if there are to be further denunciations of individuals and further attacks on reputations, we shall enter on a course for which we in the Government are unwilling to take any responsibility, and the mischievous results of which we can clearly foresee.

(4.38.) SIR EDWARD GREY: I do not desire to ignore the appeal which the right hon. Gentleman has made that this controversy should cease, but I want to refer to two things which he has said. To one I give a categorical denial on Sir Redvers Buller's behalf, and the other I wish to correct. The thing I wish to deny is that Sir Redvers Buller held the knowledge about the length of time that supplies would last in Ladysmith at the time he wrote the despatches after Colenso. He denied that in these words—

"I did not know what supplies there were. I thought at that time I had officially in writing that the garrison could not be fed beyond the end of the year."

The right hon. Gentleman has quoted a despatch which, he said, was in Sir

Mr. Brodrick.

Redvers Buller's possession, giving entirely different information. Of course, I can quote no despatch, but I do quote Sir Redvers Buller's direct denial as to his information about the supplies in Ladysmith, and if such a despatch, as the right hon. Gentleman says, was in Sir Redvers Buller's possession, I think it is a fair surmise that it could not have been the only information in his possession, or the information on which he thought it safest to rely, because he says himself that at that time he thought he had it officially in writing that the garrison could not be fed beyond the end of the year. Yes; but he may not quote anything. Will the right hon. Gentleman let him tell the whole story?

The next point is this. The right hon. Gentleman quoted a telegram from Sir Redvers Buller asking Lord Roberts's permission to persevere and, apparently, hesitating to risk the loss which would be involved. I state categorically what I think the right hon. Gentleman does not know, that that telegram he has quoted is published as an extract, and that, if the whole were published and the instructions from Lord Roberts to Sir Redvers Buller which produced that telegram, the impression with regard to Sir Redvers Buller's conduct in this matter would not only be entirely dispelled but reversed. If Sir Redvers Buller were free to quote on his side the whole of the telegram and of the orders on which he was acting, it would entirely dispel the impression which has been produced by the extract.

MR. BRODRICK: I think I had better answer the statements of the right hon. Gentleman at once. I can only read it as it reaches me from the official file. As regards the heliogram from Sir George White which I mentioned, and an extract from which I read, the right hon. Gentleman may be in a position to say that Sir Redvers Buller never received it, but I am convinced that that file is accurate, as the telegrams previously quoted from it have not been challenged by Sir Redvers Buller. With regard to the telegram of Lord Roberts to Sir Redvers Buller in reference to the 2,000 or 3,000 men, I will read the messages as they stand here.

SIR EDWARD GREY: And Sir Redvers Buller's telegram?

MR. BRODRICK: Both, premising that they have been paraphrased, and that the original telegrams up to the month of March of that year were destroyed, in order to protect the cipher. This is a telegram dated Cape Town, February 6, from Field-Marshal Lord Roberts to Secretary of State for War—

“Following received from Buller: ‘I have pierced the enemy’s lines after a fight lasting all yesterday without many casualties, and I now hold the hill which divides their position, and which will give me access to Ladysmith Plain if I can advance. I shall then be ten miles from White, while the enemy will have only one place beyond to stand. I must, however, drive back the enemy either on the right or left to get my artillery and stores on to the plain. This operation will cost from 2,000 to 3,000 men. I am hopeful, but not confident, of success. Do you think the chance of relieving Ladysmith worth the risk, and how would such a loss affect your plans? This is the only possible way of relieving Ladysmith. I know of no other if I give this up.’ Following in reply to Buller: ‘Ladysmith must be relieved, even at the loss you expect. I should certainly persevere, and my hope is that the enemy will be so severely punished as to enable you to withdraw White’s garrison without great difficulty. Let the troops know that in their hands is the honour of the Empire, and of their success I have no possible doubt.’”

SIR EDWARD GREY: Lord Robert’s orders to Sir Redvers Buller which had preceded and caused that telegram are the important matter. [After a pause.] I may tell the right hon. Gentleman that my contention is this—though I cannot quote—that Sir Redvers Buller had been ordered previously not to risk loss, and that he was bound, in deference to the orders of his superior, not to risk loss without consulting Lord Roberts.

MR. BRODRICK: I have only the telegrams. I have not got all the orders that passed, so, of course, I am not prepared to meet that particular point. But I have read the whole of the telegrams on that point.

SIR EDWARD GREY: That is only a further reason for not letting the matter rest.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) desired to enter a protest against the prolongation of the discussion, and to state his reasons for so doing. The first and foremost ground on which he based his protest was the injury which must

necessarily result to military discipline and efficiency if all or any military judgments of this kind were to be discussed by what, with all respect, he thought was an incompetent and scarcely impartial tribunal. How could the House of Commons pretend to know whether this general was, or was not, fitted for a particular command, whether that general did, or did not, conduct certain military operations in a proper and soldier-like manner on a particular occasion, or whether he had been justly or unjustly treated by his superiors in being removed from, or considered unfitted for, a particular command? To attempt such discussions could not redound to the credit of the House, and, in any case, it must have a most deleterious effect on military discipline if every officer who felt himself aggrieved, or whose friends felt he had been unjustly treated, could appeal from the judgment of his military superiors to the prejudiced verdict of a political assembly. Such a practice, if it became established, as it now threatened to be, must strike at the very roots of military discipline, and inflict real injury on the State. No one would contend that this washing of dirty linen in public could possibly do any good to the House, the Army, the aggrieved individual himself, or, indeed, to anybody concerned.

He further based his protest on the fact that these discussions took up a great deal of the time of the House. There had recently been the “Colville case,” now the “Buller case” was being discussed, and he presumed it would be followed by the “Warren case,” and many others which should be nameless. That was bad enough, but how in justice could this vicious form of “appeal to Cæsar” be limited to officers of high rank only? There were hundreds of junior officers who, in the course of the war, had been cashiered, or placed on half-pay, and who possibly thought they had been ill-used by the authorities. How could the House refuse them a hearing if it indulged the generals, and having heard them, it would be only logical and just in these democratic days if they were to go further and allow the appeals of non-commissioned officers and men who had been treated in the

same way. Why, indeed, confine our revising powers to military judgments? Would it not be equally appropriate that this House should extend its revising power to such matters as the grant of a *decree nisi* when any of the parties concerned considered they were aggrieved? Surely the Committee was at least as competent to undertake a discussion of that kind. The practical point was, however, that debates of this kind take up a great deal of time, and if this precedent was allowed there was no limit to the amount of time that might so be taken up. As a result, the really important military questions which were ripe for discussion were set aside and crowded out altogether, and what could be more destructive to military efficiency. This was the only remaining occasion this session when broad questions of military policy could be discussed. There were many such subjects fresh in the minds of hon. Members, and one day would be quite short enough to discuss any one of them. Nevertheless, the few hours which were available were to be taken up debating the case of an individual who fancied himself to be aggrieved, and when that was disposed of, they were to be called upon to discuss whether the Commander-in-Chief, with his fifty years of military experience, was, or was not, competent to deal with a petty matter of discipline in one of the military colleges. Could anything be more ludicrous, or more destructive of that spirit of discipline which should animate and pervade the fighting services?

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) asked if the hon. Member was in order in referring to the question of the military college at Sandhurst on this Vote?

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; it will not be in order to discuss that question.

*MR. ARTHUR LEE said he had no intention of discussing the question, and he only mentioned it, in passing, as an instance of the way the time of the House was wasted by the noble Lord and his friends. He contended that the only people who could profit by these sensational debates were the enemies of

this country, and neither the House, the Army, nor the particular individuals concerned, could possibly benefit by them. As regarded this particular case of General Butler, he ventured to assert that the British public were only too anxious to hear the last of it. They were sick and tired of the whole miserable, humiliating business, and would gladly forget it if they could. In any case there was no possibility of any good being done by raking up the embers of these unsavoury pasts. On every ground, therefore, he appealed to hon. Members on both sides of the House not to prolong the debate more than could possibly be avoided, and to pass on to those serious military questions which did arise upon this Vote.

(4.50.) MR. LAMBERT said the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War had quoted secret telegrams, which were only in his possession, in order to damage General Buller. That was a very grave matter for a Minister of the Crown to do.

MR. BRODRICK: Have I not a perfect right to read any telegram I please, if I lay it upon the Table of the House?

MR. LAMBERT: But you read them first in your speech.

MR. BRODRICK: I take the whole responsibility of doing so, because it is a document which is absolutely necessary, and germane to the arguments before the House.

MR. LAMBERT said he did not wish to impugn the right of the right hon. Gentleman to lay telegrams before the House, but he had quoted a heliogram which purported to come from General Buller and which had never seen the light before. That telegram must materially influence the mind of the Committee as regarded General Buller's action at Colenso. He asked the right hon. Gentleman would he allow General Buller to publish any telegram he thought necessary in his defence?

MR. BRODRICK: Most certainly not. His friends have put forth an argument as to his conduct, and I quoted only a

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document which is relevant. They make statements and I refute them, and I give this as one of the grounds of my refutation. General Buller's proper course is to go before the Royal Commission and let them see the whole of these documents.

MR. LAMBERT said they wanted to know something about the constitution of this Commission first. They did not want to import any heat into this matter. [Ministerial laughter.] He was sure hon. Gentlemen opposite wished to see justice done to General Buller, and he thought he could show that justice had not been done. The right hon. Gentleman had quoted a secret heliogram which none of them had ever seen in order to make his case good against General Buller. The Secretary of State for War had published five telegrams.

MR. BRODRICK : No, I did not.

MR. LAMBERT said at any rate General Buller published them in response to the challenge of the right hon. Gentleman. These telegrams were selected by the War Office, and General Buller had them thrown at his head to publish if he liked. As the Secretary for War had selected five telegrams for publication would he allow General Buller to publish the whole series of those telegrams?

MR. BRODRICK : I am afraid the hon. Gentleman does not follow my argument. General Buller asked me to allow him to publish one heliogram, and I said he could do so if he would publish the reply. He asked me to contradict a particular telegram which had been sent. I said he could publish that telegram if he would publish the one to which it was an answer.

MR. LAMBERT said that if they published the telegrams which were sent by General Buller during those critical days about the 15th of December, 1899, they ought to publish the whole series of telegrams. It was not fair to publish one or two telegrams which showed General Buller in the worst possible light. From the 14th of December to

the 17th, General Buller sent from 86 to 101 telegrams and the right hon. Gentleman had picked out five of them.

MR. BRODRICK : No, no.

MR. LAMBERT said the right hon. Gentleman selected five telegrams and told General Buller that they were placed in his possession upon the clear understanding that they were not to be divulged to anyone, but if publicity was decided upon, they were to be published as they stood. Would the right hon. Gentleman read to the Committee, telegrams which he would ask him for? He would like him to read a telegram from General Buller, General Officer Commanding, No. 86, sent on the 14th of December, also another, No. 49, which General Buller received from the War Office; and another most important one, No. 91, which General Buller sent to the War Office. He had those telegrams in his hand and he would like to read them. (Ministerial cries of "Read.") General Buller had been ordered not to publish a single telegram, and, therefore, he was not permitted to read them without the right hon. Gentleman's express consent. He put this as a matter of fairness to the House. The right hon. Gentleman had made selections from the telegrams, and if he would not allow him to read them he certainly ought to allow General Buller to place them before a properly constituted tribunal. That was only fair. The right hon. Gentleman had said that General Buller suggested that General White should surrender; that General Buller sent a heliogram asking General White to surrender; and that it was so monstrous a thing that the people in Ladysmith believed it to be a forgery. Did the right hon. Gentleman really believe that the telegram which General Buller sent to Sir George White bore out that statement? Did he believe that General Buller's telegram actually suggested the surrender of Ladysmith? The right hon. Gentleman said that if such a stigma had rested upon them it would have been a stigma upon our children, and our children's children. Why did he accuse General Buller of wanting to place that stigma upon this country?

MR. BRODRICK: The telegram to the Government suggested that he should give up Ladysmith and take up another position and wait for the winter.

MR. LAMBERT asked the right hon. Gentleman to tell him where those words "wait for the winter" came in. Could he quote them from any of General Buller's telegrams? That was a perfectly fair challenge. Would the right hon. Gentleman tell him where the words "wait until winter comes on" were to be found? The right hon. Gentleman could not do this. That was a sample of the kind of accusation brought against General Buller. He did not think it was fair that a distinguished general officer should be treated thus by the Minister who ought to defend him in the House of Commons. If General Buller had been guilty of what the right hon. Gentleman had suggested—the sending of this appalling message—he ought, instead of being placed in command of the First Army Corps, to have been brought before a Court Martial. Was General Buller's action ever criticised by his military superiors? Did his military superiors ever ask him for any explanation of any of his actions? The right hon. Gentleman had said that Colenso was badly executed and badly conceived. Why did not the Government ask General Buller for some explanation of that? They never did such a thing. The right hon. Gentleman had told them that the House of Commons was not competent to decide upon a matter of strategy. Let General Buller come before a tribunal by which his action could be tested. Talk about General Buller having done so badly! The right hon. Gentleman talked of the muddle of Spion Kop and of Colenso. What on earth could have made Lord Roberts promulgate the Army Order if all these things took place? If he was so incompetent as the right hon. Gentleman had stated, what was the meaning of the Army Order in which Lord Roberts thanked Sir Redvers Buller for the great services which he had rendered to the country when in command of the forces in Natal? Was it fair of the right hon. Gentleman to make such a strong and bitter attack on General Buller when the Commander-in-Chief had tendered him that vote? That Army Order was either sincere or a

sham. If the right hon. Gentleman's statement was correct, the Army Order must have been a sham; but he could not believe that Lord Roberts would publish a commendation of an officer whom he believed to be to blame. He could give reasons why General Buller considered that General White could only hold out to the end of the year, but that was not a thing which they could discuss here. They were demanding full information. They demanded that General Buller should be allowed to tell his own story to a properly-constituted tribunal, or that the orders which the right hon. Gentleman had given him to close his mouth should be removed. He was sure he had the House with him on the subject of the Colenso telegrams. If General Buller was to be judged, he should not be judged by isolated telegrams, but by all the telegrams he sent. Notwithstanding the cheers that greeted the right hon. Gentleman, hon. Members, he was sure, were sorry that a Minister had made such an attack upon General Buller. It was not fair to make such an attack, and order General Buller to close his mouth. It was like hitting a man on the face, when his hands were tied behind his back. The British public liked fair play. When he first took up this case he did so because General Buller was a Devonshire man, but since then he had been told many things. He was certain that General Buller had a strong case. When he arrived in South Africa on 31st October he had only 2,500 men to deal with; Ladysmith was besieged three days afterwards; Kimberley was besieged; and Mafeking was invested. The Boers were not only holding in General White, but they were marching towards Maritzburg. What would have happened if General Buller had not gone to Natal to save Maritzburg? The Boers would have gone on to Durban, but he drove them back. The position in which he found himself at Colenso was so grave that he ought to be allowed to tell that story, because he was the only man who could tell it intelligently. The House should remember that an enormous frontier had to be protected. He could not withdraw a single soldier from the frontier without risking a blaze in Cape Colony. The surrender of Ladysmith, unless forced by

the direst extremity, was a thing General Buller would not have suggested for a moment. General Buller took Sir George White to be a brave soldier, and did any one suppose that Sir George White would surrender Ladysmith unless in the direst extremity? General Buller sent the telegram to General White, as he said at Westminster, in order to give him a sort of cover if the worst came to the worst. That was what made General Buller so much beloved by all his men. They knew that he was willing to stand in with them. It was no use saying that he was such an incompetent man when he had the confidence of every man who served under him. General Buller was not the only General who had made blunders in South Africa. Many others had made mistakes. Did this House imagine that if every telegram were published all the reputations would stand as high as they did now? This controversy could not end here, and he implored the right hon. Gentleman to free General Buller from the silence which had been imposed on him.

* (5.11.) SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter) said if he ventured to trespass on the time of the Committee for a few moments it was because he represented a constituency which included Sir Redvers Buller among its voters, who regarded that remarkable man with intense affection and respect. No one could have listened to the debate today without coming to the conclusion that the most unsatisfactory method of dealing with this question was the method of the successive publication of telegrams. It appeared to him to be open to every possible objection. He felt sure that the House would recognise that there were only two methods—either to drop the controversy altogether or else submit the whole of the facts to the Committee on the war, which could take evidence with closed doors. The continuous publication of telegrams, some selected by the War Office and others selected by Sir Redvers Buller, could not give the country any clear view of the facts, or conduce either to support General Buller's case or to the public advantage. Then, again, it was not right to deal only with Natal. There was another important subject on which he felt much more strongly.

It was that when General Buller was appointed to Aldershot the War Office had all the facts with regard to what occurred in Natal. The Government had absolute possession of these telegrams. What he wanted to know was what occurred between the date of the appointment and the date of the dismissal, which rendered General Buller unfit to retain his command? The Secretary of State for War had given the Committee in a clearer manner than had yet been done, the five points in General Buller's speech of 10th October, which, in the right hon. Gentleman's opinion, rendered Sir Redvers Buller incompetent to retain command of the First Army Corps. The hon. Member held that none of the five points which were brought forward justified any penalty as severe as that which General Buller received. The speech might have been indiscreet and unwise. There were points in it which he was sure the friends of General Buller regretted, but he questioned whether any man of common sense would maintain that that speech merited dismissal from the Aldershot command. It appeared to him that one could not introduce any standard of military discipline taken from continental practice. The case must be judged on the general practice of officers in the English Army in high command. He submitted that there was nothing in the words used by General Buller on 10th October, which merited more than a reprimand at the outside. He would venture to ask the Secretary of State to publish all the correspondence which took place between General Buller and the War Office, subsequent to the speech of 10th October. That course did not appear to him to be open to the objection which had been raised to other publications, namely, that it would form a defence for the publication of information with respect to other officers. In this matter the position of Sir Redvers Buller was absolutely unique. So far as he was aware, there was no precedent of a general officer in his position and of his reputation having been dismissed from a high command in consequence of indiscreet words used by him. He felt convinced that if, after the publication of that correspondence,

the right hon. Gentleman realised that the causes upon which he acted were inadequate and that he committed an injustice, he would not hesitate to take measures to rectify what perhaps he might have done under some provocation and under circumstances of considerable difficulty.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) : I have listened with a very great degree of sympathy to the speech which has just been made by the hon. Member opposite, and I have come very much to the same conclusion in the matter as he has arrived at. Everyone will agree that this painful matter was brought before the House with great clearness, fairness, and moderation by my right hon. friend, but he was quite right in saying that he initiated the question on his own responsibility, for there is nothing that I would deprecate more than the introduction of any division of Party in a case of this kind. I am obliged to look at this question as an old and intimate friend of General Buller. There is no one who has a more sincere admiration for him than I have, and my admiration is not substantially diminished by anything that has happened even in Natal. At the same time, I appreciate to an extent it is difficult to convey, the immense inconvenience and almost impropriety of constituting this Committee the tribunal to decide not only questions of military capacity, of the merits and demerits of military movements and the conduct of campaigns and battles, but also of the finer questions of military discipline. I am fully alive to the other side of the question, that discussions on these matters, either in the House or in Committee, seldom result in any benefit to the character and the country. One hon. Gentleman I noticed was so penetrated with an evil habit he has contracted, that he spoke of such a debate as encouraging the enemy—forgetting that while that might have been a very nice kind of thing to say a few months ago, it is not so now when the war has been over for many weeks. I think we are all of one mind with regard to the inconvenience of discussing these questions here ; but it is necessary in some cases where, as in such a case

as this, there is, on the face of it at all events, a *prima facie* case of injustice to be cleared up. There are, I think, some points which must present themselves to the ordinary man, not accustomed to the intricacies of military discipline or of departmental regulations. There is the point dwelt upon by my two hon. friends beside me, that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War is able to publish, or to authorise the publication of certain selected passages in the communications that passed in Natal, but it is absolutely forbidden to General Buller, or anybody on his behalf, to publish other passages which might give a different complexion to the whole matter. That is a very serious grievance, and, so far as I know, that is the main grievance of which General Buller complains. He does not ask for a verdict in his favour in regard to anything that he has done. All he asks is that the public should have the opportunity of forming an impartial judgment, and that can only be done, of course, either by the right hon. Gentleman making a larger publication, or by his allowing General Buller to make public what he thinks represents his side of the case. Here, again, I admit fully that we come upon a difficulty because the right hon. Gentleman very properly said it would never do to publish all the confidential despatches that passed between the General and the Secretary of State for War. No one could ask for, or contemplate, such a thing as that. But what we want is some ground to believe that the case of General Buller has been more impartially considered than it has. Then there is the strange series of proceedings with regard to General Buller after all this had happened. After these calamitous despatches of his, after his alleged failures in Natal, he was publicly thanked by the Commander-in-Chief, the Government were almost effusive towards him and appointed him to the principal command in the Kingdom. If that does not constitute condonation of all that had happened I do not know of what condonation could consist. But the right hon. Gentleman implies today that the proper thing to be done would have been to dismiss General Buller at once, and that he was almost waiting for a good opportunity to do so. It would seem that while he was being thanked and

Sir Edgar Vincent.

mentioned in the General Orders, and while he was being appointed to the principal command in England, the Secretary of State all the time had condemned him and was only waiting for a convenient chance of getting rid of him.

MR. BRODRICK dissented.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN :
It amounts to that.

MR. BRODRICK : I traversed the arguments of those who said he should have been removed at once. I was not in office at the time.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : The right hon. Gentleman was in office very soon after, but the conduct of the Government is one and the same to successive Secretaries of State for War. Then there is a further point, for it did seem to me, and I think it seemed to the country, that there was a little abruptness and want of consideration, although it is perhaps a smaller matter, in the manner in which so distinguished an officer with so high a standing in the Army, and in the country, was retired from his command. The indiscreet speech of General Buller had nothing in it, if it is analysed, which, as I understand, constituted a breach of any regulation of the Army. It was a grave indiscretion, but it was no more, and therefore I think the judgment measured out was rather hard. The right hon. Gentleman, however, has twice said something which gives us a ray of hope. General Buller, through his friends, asks that he should have the opportunity of setting himself right with the country. I entirely agree that we must not allow great and eminent men, men of great influence, to get advantages that are refused to other officers, but this is undoubtedly a peculiar and exceptional case. General Buller's distinction, and the whole of the circumstances make the case peculiar, and therefore I think we are right in pressing for some means of getting at the facts and of enabling General Buller, if he can, to set himself right. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of referring it to the Commission which is to inquire into the war. I am afraid this matter has occupied so much of the time available to us to-day that we shall not have much time to inquire into that

Commission, but I am very curious, and I think the public are very anxious, to know precisely what the nature of that inquiry will be. It must almost necessarily, it seems to me, be divided into two parts—into an inquiry which would investigate all the business part of the war and an inquiry which would deal with the military conduct of the war and with military questions such as we are dealing with today. The class of men whom you wish for each of these purposes is quite different; and if the right hon. Gentleman could appoint a board of general officers, who could without any prejudice to public interests, taking care, as they would be quite capable of doing, that no publicity is given where evil results would follow, to inquire into this matter and report upon it, I do not know whether that would meet the views of my hon. friends who have taken up this matter so strongly, but I think myself that it would meet the justice of the case, avoid the evils which the right hon. Gentleman very properly pointed out as likely to accrue from any other course, and satisfy the public mind.

MR. BRODRICK : I am afraid that I cannot hold out any hope to the right hon. Gentleman that such a tribunal as he proposes will be established. We have given a pledge to Parliament that a Commission will be appointed of the most responsible persons we can bring together to inquire into the conduct of the war. That Commission will have within its purview, no doubt, the preparations for the war, the military conduct of the campaign, and the civil conduct so far as it concerns the Department over which I preside. It would be impossible to withdraw from their purview the operations of a particular officer or particular set of officers.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : I am afraid I did not make myself clear. I did not mean to suggest a special *ad hoc* tribunal for General Buller's case. But if the Commission consists of a sufficient number of capable and impartial general officers, that, I think, would be a tribunal to which, together with other cases, we might submit this case of General Buller.

* (5.30.) Mr. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale) said he wished to call the attention of the Committee to the case of General Sir Charles Warren, and in doing so, he desired to disassociate himself entirely from those Members of the House who gladly seized on any mistake on the part of Ministers for the purposes of belittling the Government. He was animated only by a desire to see fair play accorded, and ordinary justice done to a gallant General whose military and administrative capacities he had had the opportunity of admiring and respecting during the time he had had the honour of serving as A.D.C. in South Africa. He urged on the right hon. Gentleman that it was only bare justice to allow General Sir Charles Warren to controvert the charges brought against him by Sir Redvers Buller. Sir Redvers Buller wrote two separate despatches; the first, which was immediately made public, contained a very scathing criticism on Sir Charles Warren's action at Spion Kop, and the second, which was in the form of a secret despatch, was of so incriminating a nature, that if left unanswered, it must destroy for ever Sir Charles Warren's military career and reputation in the eyes of the public. Sir Charles Warren's demand, either that the War Office should publish an answer to these charges which they had in their possession, or that he should be allowed, through the medium of the Press, to vindicate his character, had been met with a stern and peremptory refusal. It had been urged in General Buller's case that to allow an independent inquiry would open up interminable inquiries, because what was allowed to General Buller could not be refused to other officers who thought their conduct or character was impugned. That argument as a general rule would carry weight, but it would be the quintessence of despotism if it was applied to the present instance. Here was a General, in command of 15,000, whose action had been criticised, and criticised alone by a man whose own conduct had been such as to lead to his compulsory retirement from the Army.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said he must warn the hon. Gentleman that he would be out of order in criticising the

conduct of General Sir Redvers Buller towards another officer in the field. He would be in order in discussing the conduct of the War Office, but not that of General Buller with reference to other officers in the field.

*Mr. CLAUDE LOWTHER said his object was to prove that the action of the War Office was wrong in this matter. All he desired to say was that Sir Charles Warren had been made the scapegoat of this affair. He alone had received the blame. He had no credit where credit was due, but only blame where probably it was not merited. Could it be urged that in this case the criticism of a superior officer in the interests of discipline must remain uncontroverted? Should the comments on the conduct of Sir Charles Warren be taken as fact from the mouth of a man who had proved to the full the measure of his own incompetence? Was it fair that the career of an officer who had given evidence of great intelligence should be blasted by the censure of such a censor? a censor whose brilliant performance at the seat of war had induced the Commander-in-Chief to recall him to the special command of a non-existent army corps at home—a censor whom the right hon. Gentleman himself was compelled to relieve even of that responsible position—owing to an exhibition of such crass stupidity, that every thinker in the country trembled when he considered how two years before the safety of the Empire was in the hands of such a man. He did not stand there to pronounce judgment on General Buller. General Buller stood condemned by the Commander-in-Chief, the right hon. Gentleman and all the Members of the Front Bench. Since when have the condemned been allowed to condemn? He (Mr. Lowther) was not competent to traverse the military strategy attributed to Sir Charles Warren; he did not belong to the army of amateur strategists who, after every reverse, armed with a probably inaccurate map and a box of matches, took positions with ease which it had been found impossible to take with men and guns. He did not pretend to say whether some better road might have been taken to Ladysmith than the one by Spion Kop, but this he

did say that the position was actually won at *sunset* by the valour of our men and by the iron determination of General Warren. The message sent out by Sir Charles Warren to his men was that they must fight to the end, and must not surrender; but in the face of that order, Colonel Thornycroft took upon himself to abandon the position.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN again warned the hon. Member that he must not comment on the conduct of the campaign, but must confine his remarks to the conduct of the War Office.

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER said all he wished to prove, if he would be in order in so doing, was that but for the action of Colonel Thornycroft, Spion Kop would have been held, and it would have been a victory, and that Ladysmith would have been relieved.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ruled that that would not be in order.

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER said in that case he would not further detain the House, except to say that, having regard to the whole of the circumstances of this case, it was only just that Sir Charles Warren should have an opportunity of controverting the charges which had been made against him.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) entirely agreed with the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down, and in fact went rather farther than did the hon. Member. He could not conceive a much worse method of dealing with these cases than that which had been adopted by the Government by the excessive publication of telegrams and despatches; perhaps a still worse method than that was the method by which this discussion had been forced upon the Committee this afternoon, because no other system prevailed in the Army. It was because he saw no finality in the future in the remedy of similar cases that he urged that the whole of this class of cases should be put on the footing of courts-martial, which should be held by military officers if necessary in secret. Until they adopted some such method as that, and said such cases as these should not be decided autocratically

by the sole decision of one man, these cases were bound to be repeated in future years. The same thing took place in General Colville's case; and in all these cases it appeared as if the Government shrank from publicity, whilst the officers implicated demanded it. That was so in this case of General Buller, who demanded a public inquiry, which the Government refused. This case could not end here, it would have to go on until it was cleared up in the mind of the public, and however deplorable it might be, the right hon. Gentleman and the War Office would have to make up their minds to the fact. There had been deplorable similarities between this case and others between Lord Roberts and his predecessor in office. He saw a disastrous similarity between the case of Lord Roberts and General Buller and that between Lord Roberts and Lord Wolseley when Lord Wolseley called for Papers to justify certain actions of his at the War Office, and they were refused by Lord Roberts. He thought if they read between the lines they might see something of the frame of mind which brought about this deplorable case of General Buller. He did not stand up now to discuss the military situation, but he did say that never did the House of Commons make itself more ridiculous than by entering into such discussions as were now taking place. He urged that the whole system should be changed entirely, and the autocratic system done away with. Another Secretary of State for War would have at once grasped, with a sympathetic feeling, the necessities of the case. At the present moment the British Army was governed more by terrorism than by any feeling of respect or affection for the Secretary of State for War. In his opinion, the present Secretary of State for War, instead of standing up for his officers, was more prone to abandon them, and unless he could obtain some assurance that the Government would suspend judgment in this case for the time being, until it could be thoroughly cleared up, he should support his right hon. friend when he went to a division.

LORD HUGH CECIL said his justification for intruding upon the Committee was that, in this matter, he held an opinion which was not shared by those hon.

Members who had addressed the Committee with so much ability; and he desired to show the Government why he could not support them on this question. His objection to the position taken up by the Government, apart from the question of publication, which, in his opinion, they had not managed very skilfully, was that they had given reason for the suspicion, so ably expressed by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, which he believed to be entirely unfounded, that they were keeping something back, by the very slow way in which they had proceeded with this matter. On the main question there was a great inconsistency which might be briefly stated. His right hon. friend dealt in his speech with two parts of Sir Redvers Buller's career—his career in South Africa and his career here at home. In dealing with the South African part, his right hon. friend used strong language, which nevertheless he (Lord Hugh Cecil) was able to assent to. His right hon. friend had said that Sir Redvers Buller had given advice to Sir George White, which would, if carried out, have produced a disaster without parallel in the history of this country, and would have brought upon us the reproach of our children's children. That was, no doubt, true, but the right hon. Gentleman spoke later of decorating General Buller with the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and appointing him to the most important command in Great Britain. If that is the mode of dealing with a General whose action might have produced a "disaster unparalleled in the history of our country, and brought upon us the reproach of our children's children," the sooner it was altered the better. With regard to the latter part of the attack made against his right hon. friend there was no real defence whatever to it, nevertheless, his right hon. friend had made a very good defence. If, having regard to all these circumstances, the Government, by an unusual exercise of leniency, decided not to proceed against a man, as anyone would have thought they would have proceeded against one who had provoked a disaster unparalleled in our history—be it so. Time went on, and Sir Redvers Buller became guilty of a very indiscreet speech, which his right hon. friend thought was insubordinate, but which the right hon. Gentleman opposite, who had

had great experience in military matters, thought was not, though no doubt it was a very foolish speech. There, again, there were two courses open—there was the course of passing it over simply with a reprimand, and there was the course of severity. Had it stood by itself he would have thought the Government would have had justification for proceeding with severity; but it did not stand by itself. It stood in the light of the leniency which had already been extended. It was the act of a man who had already been forgiven for offences of a very much graver character. Then came a point when this subject had to be reviewed, whatever happened. It would be observed that, in this case, there was another aspect, which was a proper matter for the Committee to consider, which was not whether Sir Redvers Buller was ill-treated or not ill-treated, but whether the Government acted wisely or not. Their proper function there was to sit in judgment, not on General Buller but on the Government, and so far as he was able to see, it was impossible to invent any theory which would justify the leniency with which the Government treated Sir Redvers Buller's most serious military mistakes, and also the extreme severity with which he was treated over a few foolish and insubordinate words. What a lesson to teach the British Army! A General might lose battles, abandon garrisons, send advice which was pusillanimous to his subordinates and panic-stricken to his superiors—all that would be forgiven, and not only forgiven but he would be brought back in triumph, appointed to his old position, and decorated with one of the highest orders in the gift of the Crown. But if, after luncheon, lashed by attacks, in a momentary indiscretion, this same General talks very great nonsense indeed, there was no mercy for such an offence as that. To lose battles, to give up garrisons, were trifles to it. When the British public read the debate they would not think Sir Redvers Buller's character as a general stood high, but they would also think that the War Office had conducted this matter with that ineptitude which, whoever was the Secretary of State, and whoever the Commander-in-Chief, appeared to hang around the walls of the War Office like a leprosy.

Lord Hugh Cecil.

*(5.55.) SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said he did not propose to defend the War Office against the attack of the noble Lord who had just sat down. He quite agreed that all the debates which the House might have upon the subject of the war ought to be for the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the British Army in time of war. Yet the only debates which had taken place were debates on the military conduct of general officers. These matters ought to be looked at from the point of view of how they affected the national interest, and he doubted very much whether the national interest was greatly served by full debates in this House upon the conduct of general officers. Let the Committee consider where they were being led this afternoon. The conduct of General Buller was brought before the House, and that was followed by an hon. Member beginning a speech—which would have been a very long speech if the hon. Gentleman had not been called to order by the Chairman—in which he pointed out that the Committee could not deal with this case without dealing with that of General Sir Charles Warren, who was censured by Sir Redvers Buller. Supposing they took the course of referring these matters specifically to the Royal Commission which was to inquire into the conduct of the war, how were they to be dealt with? Owing to the disadvantages of the country this war had been a long war; a war in which we had unfortunately suffered a great many reverses; a war which had been marked by more surrenders than any other war in which we had ever been engaged. It was those surrenders that were the original ground for this Royal Commission. But was the whole time of this Commission to be taken up by all these matters? And was it likely to come to any useful decision by discussing man after man until every case had been disposed of in which there was any doubt thrown upon the conduct or character of the general officers. From General Buller they might pass to General Warren, and from him to another general officer. In the case of the general officer to whom he referred, the same contention could be put forward as in the present instance,

viz., that the actual facts were in dispute. There was a dispute as to the time of leaving the top of the hill at Spion Kop and as to the hours at which certain telegrams were received and despatched. From that case they might pass to the responsibility of Colonel Thorneycroft, and so on to a number of other cases. The Committee was not doing much good in attempting to discuss these questions itself, but it must not try to escape from the difficulty by throwing them at the head of the Royal Commission. It was one of the unfortunate facts attending misfortune in war that there must be a certain amount of rough-and-ready justice, and a certain number of general officers treated in a way which they and their friends resented, and in regard to whose cases it was difficult to establish actual proof. Another point was that the cases which had been brought before the Committee were those of general officers of high rank, and who had had their difficulties directly with the Secretary of State. If the Royal Commission were to be encouraged to undertake the consideration of those cases, where was the line to be drawn? How could any distinction be made between those and the still harder cases of less distinguished officers who had been shelved by the Staff in South Africa. They were officers with less weight in society and politics, and were less known to Members of the House, but they had their grievances and also a very strong *prima facie* case. In inquiries held during the progress of a war, justice was seldom done in a manner satisfactory to a lawyer. He had seen the reports of many of these inquiries, and in hardly any case would they pass muster from a lawyer's point of view. The question was whether on the whole justice had substantially been done, and he doubted whether they would ever get beyond that point. The Royal Commission had better devote its time to inquiring into matters concerning the organisation of the Army, and into those questions which would have a subsequent effect upon the deliberations of the Government. While the Government might be open to the taunts which had been levelled against it by the noble Lord opposite, there was reason to suppose that in this particular case justice had substantially

been done. Most reasonable men were convinced that General Buller could not be approved as a general who successfully conducted military operations in the field; while, on the other hand, his past services to the country, and the great qualities he still possessed, had been freely admitted on all sides. Would they ever get further than that? Would they ever be able to narrow the responsibility in this case down to such a point that anything like a verdict in detail could be submitted either by the Commission or by the House of Commons? Setting aside the points which had raised our military reputation, such as the extraordinary courage of the officers—and also of the men, but not in such absolute uniformity—the facts which had damaged our military record were the matters that ought to be inquired into, so that the defects might be remedied. The matters that had attracted the attention of the country and mainly brought about the appointment of this Commission were the surrenders of troops in the field. From that point of view, it was surely impossible to defend Sir Redvers Buller's action. Every man, who had read much or little about war, could see the importance of Napoleon's maxim as to the absolute necessity of men who were detaining large bodies of the enemy holding on to their position until the last possible moment, as the result that yielding a day too soon might produce on the whole conduct of the war was incalculable. General White was not put forward as being one of the greatest generals in the world, but, holding on to Ladysmith, he rejected the suggestion made to him, and the whole country went with him. In the face of that, he did not see how they could do anything which might appear to set the seal of the approval of the House of Commons on the contention that Sir Redvers Buller had been unjustly dealt with as a general in the field. There were matters which might have been discussed on the present occasion that were more worthy of the attention of the Committee, and the consideration of which would be more useful to the country. Some of the matters referred to in the recent naval debate affected the Army as well as the Navy. The statement of the Secretary to the Admiralty that a reorganisation of the whole thinking department of the country in

regard to matters of war was needed, the admission that the War Office had been unable to get its way with regard to an increase of strength in the Intelligence Department, and the question of how far the Secretary of State intended to carry out the recommendations of the recent Report upon the education of our officers, were all subjects the Committee would have been glad to discuss. It would now be impossible for them to be discussed this year, and it was to be regretted that so much Parliamentary time should have been taken up in the discussion of matters in regard to which no real progress could be made.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY asked whether the Secretary for War could give an assurance that Sir Redvers Buller would be one of the earliest witnesses examined before the Royal Commission—["No,"]—and would have access to all documents which he thought necessary to make his position clear.

MR. BRODRICK: As to that, I can only say that I shall have no control whatever over the action of the Commission. It will be entirely independent. But I imagine that the Commission will want to examine the general officer who first had the command, and, certainly so far as the Government is concerned, all papers and documents they require will be placed at their disposal. Beyond that it is impossible for me to promise anything.

SIR EDWARD GREY: In reference to the course I intend to pursue with regard to taking a division, perhaps I may say that if there is a distinct understanding that the Commission will not be excluded by the terms of its reference from hearing General Buller and allowing him to produce the documents on the points in regard to which there has been direct conflict between him and the right hon. Gentleman opposite, and if the Committee is willing that the Amendment should be withdrawn—[Ministerial cries of "No!"] In that case, I have only to ask what the right hon. Gentleman has to say with regard to the request of the hon. Member for Exeter as to publishing the correspondence, and to say that, as far as I am concerned, I shall go to a division.

Sir Charles Dilke.

COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) was understood to say that as a soldier he did not read Sir Redvers Buller's message to Sir George White in Ladysmith to mean premature surrender.

(6.12.) MR. SWIFT MAGNEILL (Donegal, S.) desired to reply to certain personal observations. He had asked several Questions with reference to Sir Redvers Buller, not for the benefit of the Army, or for the advancement or detriment of the Government, but because he thought Sir Redvers Buller, as an individual, was suffering under a sense of wrong, and that therefore he was rightly using his position as a Member of Parliament in investigating the matter. In reply to the Questions he had put, he had been told that he in no sense represented Sir Redvers Buller. He had never spoken to Sir Redvers Buller, but he represented him in the sense that he had been an honourable and gallant man, and that he believed him to have been unfairly and unjustly treated. Irishmen could never forget what they owed to Sir Redvers Buller, who forfeited his magnificent position at the Irish Office because he raised his voice in defence of Irish tenants, and said they were the victims of the landlords, that the law was no refuge to them, while the Land League was. For his views on that question Sir Redvers Buller was dismissed from his office. When Sir Redvers Buller went out to South Africa he was not one of those hulloboosters who were so enthusiastic in his favour. He did not go into hysterics about his magnificent services. Upon one occasion he asked the Secretary of State for War how it happened that in the engagement on the 4th of February, 1900, Sir Redvers Buller never mentioned the Irish Fusiliers in his dispatch, although they were praised by all the correspondents as having behaved magnificently, and with great bravery. On that occasion the right hon. Gentleman said he would not make any inquiries. A few days afterwards he got a letter from Sir Redvers Buller stating that it was a mere error that the Fusiliers were omitted, and he permitted him to make use of that letter as a refutation of the statement of the

Secretary of State for War. That very regiment was now recuperating in the very worst climate in the world. They put the Irish soldiers in the front during a battle and gave them the very worst of everything except the fighting. Sir Redvers Buller had acted most magnificently as an honourable and truthful gentleman. He did not know much about his services in the field, but he had been the victim of a cruel wrong, and all he wished was that he should be able to tell his own story and be accorded the privileges of the meanest subject in the Kingdom. Out of a whole series of telegrams, only some five or six which told against General Buller were chosen. The Committee would remember that for months he was constantly asking for the Spion Kop dispatches, which were produced on the 4th of May, 1900. Then it transpired that Sir Redvers Buller had been asked to rewrite his dispatches, and he had incurred the enmity of the War Office for refusing to do this, and therefore his case ought to be heard before the public. No general officer had ever been previously dismissed for making a speech, even though it happened to be a breach of the Army regulations. That was absolutely true, and he was certain that it was not for that speech that General Buller was dismissed. *The Times* was against him, and that journal had special information. He wished to give the Secretary of State for War a precedent. It had been stated that Sir Redvers Buller was dismissed for making a speech which was contrary to the King's regulations. Lord Wolseley made a speech in 1889 for which Mr. Stanhope stated in this House there was no defence. Nevertheless, Lord Wolseley was permitted to be the Commander-in-Chief, although his speech was as bad and indiscreet as the speech made by Sir Redvers Buller. He had no sympathy with this war, but he had with an individual who had been subjected to a wrong, and whether he happened to be a British general or a humble person, he should sympathise with him if he thought a foul intrigue had been set on foot against him at the War Office. Under those circumstances he was bound to raise his voice against such a wrong. Sir Redvers Buller

had acted as an honourable man, and it was an outrageous thing that in the interests of individuals he should be ousted by backstairs politicians. General Buller had been severely reprimanded, and he ought to be allowed to state his case fairly. It had recently become a habit to depreciate Sir Redvers Buller in order to praise Sir George White. Sir George White told the special correspondent of the *Morning Post* that if it had not been for Sir Redvers Buller he would have been dismissed from his command.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I was only repeating a statement made to me, and I cannot be answerable for the truth of that statement.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The exact truth for which he was responsible was that that statement, which was made by Sir George White, was telegraphed to Europe. It had never been, and could not be, contradicted. It was absolutely essential that all the telegrams should be published, and that there should be no suppression. The suppression was not in the interests of the country, but in the interest of the War Office, which was a sink of pollution.

(6.31.) COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) appealed to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Berwick to spare them the pain that would be inflicted on many of them if unfortunately this question was pressed to a division. They acknowledged the *bonâ fides* with which the right hon. Gentleman had approached the question, and they recognised the strong feelings which it had aroused in Sir Redvers Buller's friends and neighbours. There was no class who felt more strongly than soldiers and ex-soldiers, and they would be grateful if spared the great sorrow of having to register a vote which in a sense would be a vote against the reputation of perhaps one of the bravest officers that ever wore uniform. They could not go with the right hon. Gentlemen in the opinions he had put forward, but still they would gladly be spared from appearing to put a stigma on a man whose reputation was dear to every soldier. They had abstained from

Mr. Swift MacNeill.

giving professional opinions to which they might have given utterance. They had done so out of an intense feeling of regard for Sir Redvers Buller, and he would respectfully urge that they should not be asked to register their vote in a division.

SIR EDWARD GREY: In answer to the appeal of the hon. and gallant Gentleman, I have to say that I fully recognise the difficulty of the position he has put forward. I have no desire, as I stated in my opening remarks, to see the debate unduly prolonged, and I am quite prepared, so far as I am concerned, that it should conclude now. I am bound to say that what has come out this afternoon, combined with such knowledge as I have of what there may be still to come out, has deepened my sense of injustice, and although I admit the matter cannot continually be before the House, by nothing which is in his power to help, will the matter be allowed to rest where it is. If it were understood that the matter is not to rest where it is, but may be brought before the Commission of Inquiry, and the Committee will give leave to withdraw, then I will most gladly meet the hon. and gallant Member opposite, but if the Motion cannot be withdrawn it has to be negatived. If it were negatived, there is the stigma which my hon. and gallant friend wishes to avoid. By whatever majority the Motion may be negatived, I, and those who think with me, would prefer, if it is to be negatived, that our votes, at any rate, should be recorded.

* MR. DUKE (Plymouth) said that a consideration has been overlooked for some time in the debate, and that was the question—What is necessary in the interest of justice to be done in the case of Sir Redvers Buller? There had been a great deal of discussion on the misdeeds of the Government, and as to whether this House should consider the question at all. He had never seen how a debate of this kind could do any good to Sir Redvers Buller, but it was raised from a sense of justice and a desire to show fair play; and fair play was not shown when it was attempted to meet the request for facts with such a catch phrase as *chose jugée*, and, by

the proposition that one case of this kind could not be considered because it would involve the hearing of other cases. The man in the street did not look at it in that way. He said, "Here is a man who during a great career has shown his eminent qualities, and who has earned in a remarkable degree the confidence of the troops in His Majesty's Army." The House of Commons was the palladium of justice in this Empire, and the case of Sir Redvers Buller should not be met by such an observation as *chose jugée*. If there were other cases they could be dealt with as they arose. He asked for an assurance that all the despatches had been published with regard to Ladysmith which ought to affect the judgment of the country, but he as wholly dissociated himself from the attacks made upon the right hon. Gentleman as from those made on Sir Redvers Buller. It had been suggested that the right hon. Gentleman had dealt almost dishonestly with General Buller.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: No.

*MR. DUKE asked the Committee to recall the attack made less than five minutes before by the hon. Gentleman who challenged him, and who said Sir Redvers Buller had been hardly dealt with because he refused to become the agent of a moneyed ring. If that sort of talk meant nothing, it should not have been introduced into the debate.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said he had declared his opinion that Sir Redvers Buller was in no way connected with the financial ring who brought about the war.

*MR. DUKE said the hon. Member also referred to cliques at the War Office, to whom he attributed a desire to ruin Sir Redvers Buller's reputation. It was because he did not believe a word of this he wished to entirely dissociate himself from expressions of the kind. Having regard to the position of Sir Redvers Buller, having regard to the confidence, admiration, and affection with which he was still regarded throughout the Army—especially by the rank and file—having regard to the belief of the Colonists in Natal that they were saved by General Buller, he did not

think it was unreasonable to ask the right hon. Gentleman before the debate closed, as he hoped it would by the withdrawal of the Motion, whether he could not say to the Committee that, if in reading these despatches over again he found that there were some which, as a man of honour and common sense, he thought might throw some light on the matter he would publish them. He made that appeal to the right hon. Gentleman, but if it was refused, he should not feel himself at liberty to join in a vote of censure upon the right hon. gentleman. Confident as he was that General Buller had done his best in South Africa, and that hereafter it would come to be seen that he had done his best, he had no less confidence in the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War that he, too, had done his best and had behaved in a manner which ought to have relieved him from the taunts thrown at him. He trusted that the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman opposite would be withdrawn.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said he only wanted to press the appeal which had just been made, and to say that when he came down to the House he had been thoroughly prepared to support the right hon. Gentleman in everything he had done. But he had one difficulty, and he did not see how any hon. Member could get over it, and that was that the Secretary for War had given no real reason for appointing General Buller to the chief command at Aldershot if he had a case to dismiss him from his command beforehand. The right hon. Gentleman had given two excuses. First, that there were no Army corps to go abroad (there were no Army corps except on paper); and, second, the right hon. Gentleman desired to let General Buller down gently. But they did not want to let any man down gently by giving him the most important military command in England. That was not the real reason if the General was guilty of conduct which deserved dismissal. Nor was the real reason that General Buller had made a speech. If a division was forced, he held that every British officer would find himself in an uncomfortable position, because he would feel

that when the reputation of a British officer was at stake, he ought not to vote against but to stand up for him.

MR. PIRIE said he wished to ask two questions, which he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War would answer—first, whether the correspondence which led up to the dismissal of General Buller would be published, with the reasons given by the Government for that dismissal; and, second, whether General Buller had asked for a court-martial.

MR. BRODRICK: Sir Redvers Buller asked for an inquiry by a competent tribunal, but the case is not a case for a court-martial; it is a case for the Commander-in-Chief. As regards the correspondence, I do not know of any instance of correspondence between a general officer and the War Office being published. As to the question of the right hon. Gentleman regarding the terms of the reference to the Commission, I can assure him that the reference will not in any way exclude from a consideration of the conduct of the war such a case as that of Sir Redvers Buller.

MR. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore) said that the military merits or demerits of General Buller did not concern him in the least so far as the vote he was going to give was concerned. He should vote for the Amendment, on the simple ground that whether it was the case of an ordinary postman or policeman in Ireland or a general in South Africa, the incriminated man should not be tried and condemned behind his back. What was the backbone of the charge brought by virtuous England against vicious France in the Dreyfus case? It was that an officer of the French Army had been tried behind his back and condemned on the evidence of witnesses he had no power to cross-examine. That was the true inwardness of the Buller case, as it was also in the Colville case. They had entreated for an inquiry, and the opportunity of leading their own evidence, and the right to cross-examine the witnesses brought against them. Another point in General Buller's case was that he asked whether he should sacrifice 2,000 or 3,000 men in an attack on the Boers before Ladysmith, and he was advised to do so; and then, on re-consideration, he failed to do so. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War

why he kept this House and the country in ignorance of the report of Sir William Butler, which he had in the pigeon-holes of his office, as to the strength of the Boers and the big reserves of guns and ammunition they had at their command? Had General Buller anything like an approximate knowledge of the strength of the Boers in men and material with which he had to deal on that critical occasion? This was not a question as to a particular man or a particular General, but a question as regarded the dispensation of justice by this country towards public servants which the country was taxed to maintain. He entirely condemned the cry raised from the opposite Benches that the moment anything was said about the Army, that was an attack on the discipline of the Army. That was the plea of the French General Staff. If the conduct of a General was impugned, then it was an attack on the Army. If a suggestion were made of the existence of indiscipline and corruption in the lower ranks of the Army, that was an attack on the Army. He contended that they were entitled to maintain that this House was the High Court of appeal as regarded the administration and management of the Army, and as regarded the treatment of any member of the Army. It was an abrogation of their constitutional functions to tell hon. Members that they were not to raise questions of this kind or discuss them without affecting the discipline of the Army. He would remind the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War that he was not a military Satrap, and that he had no right to claim immunity from criticism, either for himself or for his subordinates. On that ground, even if for no other reason—no matter how poor his opinion happened to be of General Buller—even if he did not believe—as he did believe—that General Buller did the bulk of the biggest fighting in the South African War—he would vote for the Amendment as a protest against the claim that had been raised, and that the House had no right to interfere in a matter of this kind, which related to the relations between the Secretary of State for War and a general in the British Army.

(6.58.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes, 236. (Division List No. 302.)

Mr. Courtenay Warner.

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Burt, Thomas
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Cremer, William Randal
 Delany, William
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Field, William
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbt. John
 Grant, Corrie
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, David Brynm'r (Swansea)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kearley, Hudson E.
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 M'Crae, George
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Markham, Arthur Basil
 Mooney, John J.
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)

O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Partington, Oswald
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Toulmin, George
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (Norfolk)
 Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir Edward Grey and Mr.
 Lambert.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
 Alhussen, Augustus H'nry Eden
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Bhowanagree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brassey, Albert
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Boll, William James
 Burdett-Connats, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)

Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chamberlayne, T. (St. Hampton)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets)
 Dickinson, Robert Edmond
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F'r'd Dixon
 Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elbank, Master of
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.

Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Linc.)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Sir E. W. (Bry. S. Edm'nds)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Groves, James Grimble
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. L'd G. (Middlesex)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (Lond'n & rry)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Harwood, George
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.

Hickman, Sir Alfred
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hogg, Lindsay
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Jno. (Kent, Favr'sham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickerseth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
Kimber, Henry
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H (Hants, Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
Milvain, Thomas
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.)
Morrison, James Archibald

Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Grah'm (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donal Ninian
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Seton-Karr, Henry
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, H. C. (North'mb. Tyneside)

Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Wards, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Pow'11 (Birm.)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question again proposed.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford), remarking that certain regiments had the privilege of bearing details of the actions in which they had taken part on their colours and accoutrements, reminded the Committee that the Essex Regiment fought in the battle of Salamanca in 1812 and captured a French Eagle. They had applied several times to wear an eagle on their accoutrements, and had always been refused. Up to three years ago they were allowed to wear this eagle on their belts, but then, thanks to an ardent but unpenetrating War Office clerk, they were ordered to take it off. He appealed to the representative of the War Office at that time, who was the present Chief Secretary for Ireland, to direct that this privilege should be renewed. The right hon. Gentleman then said it could not be

done then, but that he would make inquiries and see what could be done. They had waited three years without any result, and he thought it was time they got a direct answer. The matter only represented a 2½d. piece of brass to a War Office clerk, but it meant a great deal to this gallant regiment, whose history had been so distinguished. This regiment deserved the consideration of the House. Once the old 44th and 56th of the line, it was raised in 1780, fought in the campaigns of North America, the Peninsular War, and Waterloo. In the last century it was present at the first Afghan campaign, when it was killed to the last man. The regiment afterwards fought in the Crimea, and subsequently went up the Nile with Lord Wolsley; and last, and not least, for its gallant service was allowed to form the escort of Lord Roberts in his march to Johannesburg.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Gromarty) complained of the difficulty of obtaining information from the Secretary of State for War. He was sorry to see the right hon. Gentleman rise to leave the House. When information was wanted, the right hon. Gentleman made for the door, but he was glad to see him return to his place. He desired to have some information with regard to the hospital accommodation at Hong Kong for our sick soldiers, who, he had discovered, were being cared for in rooms over the canteen tap room. That was not the sort of place in which to house our sick soldiers. He understood fresh hospital accommodation was being provided, and he wished to know whether this was so, or whether matters were at a standstill.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton), on a point of order, asked whether this came within the Vote.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ruled that it was not in order, as there was no item in the Vote for hospitals. This Vote was only connected with the salary of the Secretary of State.

*MR. WEIR pointed out that he was complaining of the action of the Secretary of State for War in his administrative capacity, who sanctioned the employment of men who spent large sums of money foolishly in the purchase of an hotel for conversion into barracks—for instance, the Austin Barracks, on the Peak at Hong Kong, which cost upwards of £40,000, whilst the building was not worth more than £10,000.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order! There is a separate Vote for building, and the hon. Gentleman's observations are more applicable to that.

*MR. WEIR then directed attention to the action of the Secretary of State in allowing the arsenals and small arms factories in this country to be open to the inspection of all and sundry, and keeping the ordnance yard at Hong Kong closed. When in Hong Kong, he had applied to the General in command for permission to inspect the

ordnance yard, and was met with the answer that he had no orders to grant admission to any civilian. He thought there should be one rule in these matters, and if one place was allowed to be visited, all should be. He also complained of not being able to get straightforward answers from the right hon. Gentleman to straightforward questions.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords]. BY ORDER.

(9.0.) MR. BRYNMOR JONES (Swansea District) had on the Paper the following Motion:—"That the Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [Lords] be re-committed to the Committee on Group No. 9, to reconsider their decision upon the Clause (Clause G) brought up by the promoters for the protection of the Glamorganshire County Council." The hon. Member said that, though the Glamorgan County Council had a technical right to have the Bill re-committed, he had, after conferring with the parties, come to the conclusion that it was not expedient to incur the trouble and expense of re-committing it; and, without in any way prejudicing the rights of the County Council in regard to any future Bill, he would ask leave to withdraw the Motion.

SUPPLY.

[18TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

1. £1,381,000, Militia: Pay, Bounty, &c.
2. £585,000, Imperial Yeomanry: Pay and Allowances.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.) said he wished to call attention to grave complaints made in the public Press with regard to the treatment of Yeomanry during the recent campaign. In October of last year a letter appeared in the *Standard* making a definite charge against the commanding officer of a corps in South Africa of having used an ambulance for the purpose of conveying the luxuries and clothing of officers for a journey of 3,000 miles. He called the attention of the Secretary for War to that statement at the time, and got the usual stereotyped answer—that if he produced facts, inquiry would immediately be made.

MR. BRODRICK: On a point of order, I must point out that this Vote has only to do with the Imperial Yeomanry at home.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS: Can we have another opportunity of discussing the right hon. Gentleman's salary?

MR. BRODRICK: The Committee has been doing that all the afternoon.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS: I have had no opportunity of raising this question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is out of order now to do it. It may be possible later on.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS: Well, I will hope to have the privilege of reducing the right hon. Gentleman's salary later.

MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) said he was very much interested in the Yeomanry, and he felt bound to congratulate the Government on the change which had taken place in regard to the force. The old order of things was, fortunately, passing away. The feudal system, under which the farmers on big estates were almost bound to serve, no longer obtained; a class of men better suited to the requirements of the force was being introduced, and they had proved their value by their conduct in the recent South African campaign. He wished to bear testimony to the excellent system, which had superseded the old one, of sending the Yeomanry into camp. Speaking from personal experience, he could vouch for the immense benefit derived from picketing horses in the

open instead of confining them in cramped huts and inconvenient stables in town. At the last training of the Oxfordshire regiment, despite the fact that the weather was cold the health, of both horses and men was admirable. The additional inducements, especially in the matter of pay, which had been held out, were attracting a large and useful class of men. He could not help expressing gratification at the change which had taken place, and he was convinced that in this matter, at any rate, the Government were proceeding on right lines.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid) said now the war was ended there was no necessity for this large number of men on a peace footing at home. He asked what rate it was intended to pay the Yeomanry in this country upon a peace footing. He noted that the Estimates showed an enormous increase on the year, and he would like to know when the Yeomanry were to be brought back from South Africa.

LORD STANLEY: Not one penny in this Vote has to do with the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa. It is purely and simply for the Imperial Yeomanry at home under normal peace conditions.

MR. CALDWELL suggested that, as the war was now over, the force could be reduced to a peace footing. Men would be returning from South Africa, and there would be no necessity to maintain a large force at home in order to feed the force in the field. Surely they were entitled to ask as to the necessity for so big a number of men as was provided for in the Estimates.

LORD STANLEY said the hon. Member was clearly under a misconception. This had nothing to do with the Imperial Yeomanry in South Africa, nor had it been used for supplying drafts in South Africa. Last year an increase was voted for the Yeomanry forces in the United Kingdom. The original establishment was 11,000, and this figure it was proposed to raise to 33,000. The pay was increased, and at the same time the Government increased the amount of drills and camp work. An allowance was also made for horses.

MR. CALDWELL: To what extent has the force been increased?

LORD STANLEY said that of the 33,000 men whom it was hoped to get, over 16,000 had been obtained on January 1. Since then a large additional number had been enrolled.

SIR ARTHUR HAYTER (Walsall) asked how the new corps were progressing. How were the Sussex Yeomanry going on? He believed the Commanding Officer and Adjutant had been appointed. How strong was the regiment? What prospects, too, were there of raising the force to 33,000 men?

LORD STANLEY said that recruiting was going on very satisfactorily indeed. They were getting as many men as they expected; the strength of the regiments in existence was very largely increased. On the 1st January—the latest date for which he had the figures—the Surrey regiment contained fifteen officers, fifteen sergeants and 223 rank and file, and seeing that it had only just been raised, he thought that to be a very creditable performance.

SIR ARTHUR HAYTER: And how about the Sussex?

LORD STANLEY: I have not the figures here in regard to that regiment.

MR. TOMKINSON confessed that personally he had considerable doubts as to whether the new conditions were sufficiently attractive to bring the force up to the required strength, but he was bound to say that so far the recruiting had proceeded very satisfactorily. The establishments of some regiments were already complete. New regiments were being raised, and altogether the service was very popular throughout the country.

SIR JOHN DORINGTON (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) asked if the Government were satisfied with the supply of horses for the Yeomanry. He pointed out that the Government provided £5 in the case of every man who brought a horse, but that some men did not bring their own horses. He wished to know whether the officers were satisfied with the horseless regiments and with men who it was found, when they came on parade, were unaccustomed to ride.

LORD STANLEY agreed with the hon. Baronet that the present system was by no means perfect. It was difficult indeed to say how far the existing system had been a success. A number of Yeomanry Officers had been asked to go into the facts and suggest any changes which they thought necessary. Personally he would like to see these regiments provide their own horses and not rely on the Government, but in some cases it would be extremely difficult to enforce such a rule. Still he hoped that in the course of the coming year some more satisfactory arrangement would be come to.

* SIR ROBERT HERMON-HODGE (Oxfordshire, Henley) strongly advocated the long service medal for Yeomanry. The authorities seemed to hold, he said, that a man of forty was too old to serve in a mounted corps. He did not agree with that, and he thought the War Office might well leave Commanding Officers to weed out of the force men who had ceased to be fit to serve. He would like to see the Yeomanry put on the same footing as the Volunteers in regard to a long service medal. Then, again, there was the question of the position of Regimental Sergeant-Majors. Last year a promise was practically given that these men in the Yeomanry should be put on a level with those in the Volunteers. It was not a very extravagant claim to be made on behalf of men, many of whom had done extraordinarily good service, that they should enjoy the position, pay, and pension rights which Volunteer Regimental Sergeant-Majors had. Then there was the question of riding. It was extraordinary how small a percentage of Englishmen—in this horse-loving and horse-breeding country—were capable of riding. Recruiting for the Yeomanry force was no doubt going on most satisfactorily, but the fact could not be disguised that a large number of the men enlisted could not ride, and he would strongly urge on the right hon. Gentleman the desirability of establishing riding schools in suitable localities. For instance, one might very well be established in the city of Oxford, for there were a large number of young men passing through the University every year who would be glad to avail themselves of the opportunity of learning to ride. Civil Service students who had to pass a riding test already secured

the services of the Yeomanry regimental Sergeant-Major to teach them. It was very hard on a Yeomanry officer to find the movements of his squadron impeded by the fact that thirty or forty of his men were unable to ride. If the Minister for War could see his way to providing riding schools in such places as Oxford, he was sure it would be found that the money would be well invested.

Vote agreed to.

3. £1,287,000, Volunteer Corps, Pay and Allowances.

* (9.30.) COLONEL BROOKFIELD (Sussex, Rye) asked the Secretary of State to explain exactly what the amended Order in Council as to Volunteers was, and when the next rules would come into force. He regretted to see a tendency in official quarters to neglect and depreciate the Volunteer force at the expense of the Yeomanry and the Militia. By their services in the recent emergency and by the steady progress they had made, he contended the Volunteers were entitled to more encouragement than they had recently received. He also urged that the Volunteer Regulations required amendment in certain important respects. There were archaic regulations, based on the organisation as it existed in 1859 or 1860, which ought to be brought up to date, and made to harmonise with the present condition of affairs. Among the absurdities existing was the right of individual Volunteers to appeal to the Secretary of State if they felt themselves aggrieved. That right was an absolute farce, as was shown by a recent case in Herefordshire. A Corporal Ough returned from the war, and was fêted in the usual way, though being a temperate man, he was not unduly excited. The Adjutant of the regiment, attired in the usual picturesque costume of a British officer—that was, a suit of tweed “dittos”—passed him on a bicycle, and, because he was not saluted by the Corporal, had him brought up, with the result that he was practically expelled from the battalion. This right of appeal was exercised, and eventually, after a deal of circumlocution, a reply was received stating that the Secretary of State was of opinion that the matter should be

decided by the General on the spot. Why should not all this farce be avoided by stating in the regulations that the aggrieved Volunteer should appeal through the usual channels to his proper superior? As to the general treatment of Volunteers, he thought the rules as to the annual camps required tightening. What the War Office always appeared to be doing was to ask the Volunteers what they would like, and then to adapt the requirements of the country to meet their wishes.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) thought the new Order in Council was a great improvement on the Order promulgated in November last, and the Volunteer force as a whole was most anxious to do all it possibly could to give effect to the wishes of the military authorities. With regard to camps, he was glad the Secretary of State had taken very wide powers of exemption, and so would be able to discriminate between different regiments. Some regiments found it very difficult to attend camps at certain seasons of the year. It was absolutely essential that some regiments should go into camp, while for others that were constantly training it was not so important. Some volunteers, especially those employed in Government offices, found it difficult to get the necessary leave of absence, and while he recognised the spirit of the Memorandum recently issued to heads of departments on the subject, there were many of those officials who did not appreciate the difficulty which Volunteers had in coming up to the new standard of efficiency unless they had this leave. It was extremely important that it should be understood that it was not a matter of the wishes of the individual volunteer, but that the Treasury and the Government were anxious that every encouragement should be given to the men to attend the camps. He was therefore glad this power of exemption had been taken, and hoped the matter would be looked upon from a commonsense point of view. The proposed appointment of an Advisory Board to the Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteer force was a step in the right direction, and would give great satisfaction to the force. As to the Sergeant-majors of Volunteers, he hoped the Secretary of State would give the

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matter renewed consideration. The work attached to the position in the Militia was largely confined to the period of recruit and annual training, whereas in the Volunteers it continued all the year through, and yet in the former case the officer had warrant rank, while in the latter he had not. They were a most deserving body of men, and there was really no reason for maintaining this difference of treatment. He would also appeal to the Department to be very careful how they sanctioned any extension of the present musketry requirements. Metropolitan Volunteers found considerable difficulty in coming up to the standard. Practically, the only available ranges were at Pirbright and Bisley, and a Volunteer had frequently to make four or five visits before he could compete his class. Generous allowances had been made, but it was really a question, not of money, but of time. It was undesirable that a Volunteer should have continually to be asking his employer for an afternoon to go to the range. The less call there was made on employers, the better it would be for the Volunteer force as a whole. The war had shown what a valuable reserve the Volunteer force was, and men should be encouraged to join it by every possible means. As to the large deficiency of officers, he fully agreed that they should be well trained, but the right hon. Gentleman would readily see that the greater the demand upon the time of the officers the more difficult it would be to obtain them. Young gentlemen should be encouraged to accept commissions, and not discouraged by an insistence upon duties which in some respects might be considered to be of a routine character.

MR. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) referred to the circular recently issued from the War Office impressing upon officers the necessity of using ammunition for practice shooting instead of in competitions; the effect of which, he believed, would be unduly to limit the amount of ammunition the officers could devote to competitions, and in that way prevent shooting being made attractive to the men. Ten rounds per man was absolutely useless, and if officers desired to encourage shooting they would have to find the ammunition at their own expense.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster) hoped the Secretary of State would reconsider the case of Corporal Oud, and that the man, who had borne an excellent character in South Africa, would not be dismissed from his position. With regard to officers and men making themselves efficient, he urged that the regulation requiring attendance at ten drills before going into camp should be so far relaxed as to enable them to complete their drills while in camp. By so doing, the right hon. Gentleman would make it easier for officers and men to make themselves efficient.

MR. TOMKINSON said that, unless an entirely different complexion could be put upon it by the Secretary of State, the case to which reference had been made was one of the most outrageous and amazing of which he had ever heard, and reflected small credit upon the officer concerned. He hoped that upon further consideration restitution would be made, and the man restored to the position he had filled with so much credit.

LORD STANLEY, replying to the various questions which had been raised, said that nothing impressed the recent Committee more than the absolute impossibility of making hard and fast rules for Volunteers. Rules must be made, as far as possible, applicable to the majority of the force, reserving the right to make exemptions in the case of corps which, owing to local circumstances, could not possibly come up to the requirements. He agreed as to the desirability of tightening the rules with regard to going into camp. The more the men could be got into camp, the better it was for the force, and nobody recognised that more than the Volunteer officers on the recent Committee, but it was clearly shown that more stringent rules on the point would lead to a considerable diminution in the force. To keep up a state of efficiency in the Volunteer force, they must rely upon the goodwill of its members, and the only thing that could be done was to put before them the wishes of those in authority, to which they had never yet failed to respond, and to be prepared in exceptional cases to exercise the discretionary power vested in the Secretary

of State. As to officers being permitted to make good their drills in camp, not a single Volunteer officer stood up before the Committee for such an arrangement. They all held that when they went into camp they should be in such a state of efficiency that they should be teaching and not learning drills while there. He was afraid such a concession could not possibly be granted, without, in a great degree, impairing the efficiency of the officers. The point raised by the hon. Member for the Partick Division was one upon which it was very difficult to lay down a hard and fast rule. It was quite true that there were some corps in which great pains were taken over the shooting, but there were others in which the ammunition was kept back, and instead of bad shots being taught to shoot better, the whole was reserved for competitions amongst the better shots of the regiments. That was the worst thing that could happen. What was wanted was not a few really good shots, but a good average, and the best way to secure that was by using the surplus ammunition for the purpose of improving those who were not up to the average. Personally, he was not cognisant of the case of Corporal Ough, and his right hon. friend, in this as in many others, had been obliged to leave the question to the officers responsible in the district for the enforcement of discipline. His hon. friend wished him to say that it did look as if this man had not had his case properly considered, and that he would himself inquire into the circumstances, in order that justice might be done. The proposed Advisory Board was very much in accordance with the views expressed by Volunteer officers, and cases brought before the Board from different localities could be thoroughly analysed by those who would have to deal with them in the War Office.

(10.2.) MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire) said that the Order in Council of 1901 demanded longer and more arduous training of the Volunteer force, but the new conditions were not accompanied by corresponding facilities. There was a wide-spread feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the Volunteers throughout the country, and the War Office granted

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a Committee to make inquiries. The Volunteers hoped that they would go into the whole question of Volunteer allowances in a broad spirit for the purpose of securing greater numbers and efficiency. In that hope they had been disappointed, because the Order in Council, dated 29th May, 1902, made very little difference on the previous regulations. They expected that the capitation grant would be raised from 35s. to 50s., and also that the camp allowance would be increased from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per day. There should have been a much greater allowance for ammunition to Volunteers for practice in shooting. It was expected also that there would be an allowance for drill halls and rifle ranges, and that there would be, in addition to the Adjutant, a paid Quarter-master Sergeant and Sergeant Major. In these expectations they had been disappointed. The Volunteers expected now that the war was at an end that these matters would receive the attention they deserved.

*MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.) called attention to the case of a man who was a Corporal in the Carmarthen Volunteers, and who, though he had been nearly twenty years in the corps, was dismissed because his employment prevented him from attending camp this year. This was not the case of a man wilfully neglecting his duty. He was a tradesman who was unable to attend the camp this year without serious consequences to him as a business man. It seemed to the hon. Member that if members of the Volunteer force were to be treated in that harsh and arbitrary manner the War Office authorities could not expect to increase the numbers. He hoped the noble Lord would see his way to cancel the order for the dismissal of this man.

LORD STANLEY said that if the commanding officer thought that it would be an advantage to the regiment to retain this man, he had power to do so. The War Office were asked to order the commanding officer to keep in the regiment a man whom he did not think efficient. On the face of it, he could not see that there was any grievance.

***MAJOR SEELY** (Isle of Wight) called attention to the formation of a large number of rifle clubs in the country. He felt that if the Government took no part in the matter, it was possible that these clubs might become a competing force with the Volunteers. He suggested that the Secretary of State should consider the matter seriously and practically, with a view to seeing that rifle clubs did not compete with the Volunteer force. There were signs already that it was possible that some of these rifle clubs might become sufficiently powerful to seriously prejudice recruiting for the Volunteer force. He considered that this matter was somewhat urgent, because, if steps were not taken to see that those who had an earnest desire to learn shooting were directed into the right channel, it was quite possible that those clubs might do more harm than good. A very real difficulty to these clubs was the expense of the ammunition; the Government could therefore retain a hold on the clubs by supplying ammunition at a greatly reduced charge, on certain conditions. These rifle clubs, instead of competing with, might be made valuable adjuncts to the Volunteer force. The same difficulty had arisen in some of the Colonies, and had been satisfactorily dealt with. It would seem advisable to take some action in this country on similar lines, before the movement had grown beyond the control of the Government.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) also urged that some system of organisation should be devised in connection with rifle clubs.

***SIR CHARLES DILKE** pointed out that this Vote contained certain allowances in respect of field batteries. In his Army corps organisation the Secretary of State provided for fifteen batteries of Volunteer field artillery. On the last occasion when the subject was debated in the House the Secretary of State seemed to have come round to the view which some hon. Members had previously expressed, namely, that he would be likely to do better with Militia field artillery than with Volunteer field artillery. He wished to know how far the right hon. Gentleman had got in this direction, and whether he would have to fall back on the Militia.

***MR. WYLIE** requested information as to the position of the Volunteer Reservists scheme.

MR. BRODRICK said he hoped to be able in the autumn to make a statement on the Volunteer Reservists scheme. With regard to the field artillery, the right hon. Gentleman had raised a serious and important question. They had hoped that they would be able to rely upon the Volunteers for fifteen batteries of field artillery, but the War Office authorities, after carefully considering the matter, had come to the conclusion that there was great difficulty in finding Volunteers who were able to give sufficient time for training as field artillery, and it had been thought desirable for the present to restrict Volunteer artillery to the heavier guns. They were considering whether they could induce Militiamen to give as much service as would make them competent field artillerists, and he was not sure that they would not be able to form some part of this artillery to a large extent of men who had already passed through the Reserve, and who would be very eligible still to serve for some years for home defence. He hoped to be able to report satisfactory progress next year.

Vote agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,025,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for the Pay, etc., of the Medical Establishment, and for Medicines, etc., which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903."

MR. MACVEAGH (Down Co., S.) called attention to a grievance felt by certain medical officers whose claims had been adjudicated upon by officers who were junior to themselves. Decisions had been given which would involve these officers in considerable loss of money in the shape of pension. He hoped the Secretary of State would give his personal attention to the appeals which had been lodged by the aggrieved officers.

MR. BRODRICK replied, but his remarks were inaudible in the Gallery.

(10.25.) COLONEL WELBY (Taunton) asked whether the Secretary of State for War had under consideration the future of the Army Medical Department. It was well known that when the late war broke out officers and men suffered terribly from the inefficiency of the Medical Department. He urged the desirability of keeping up the efficiency of the Medical Department, so as to be able in future promptly to meet the exigencies of war. He feared that in the economies that followed the conclusion of war and the shrinkage of the Army this necessity might be overlooked.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS said the system of requiring signatures and counter-signatures to be obtained during the late campaign before the necessary appliances could be received was found to be very inconvenient, both for the doctors and the unfortunate sufferers. He hoped that something would be done to alter this system. What he wanted to know was why all these signatures and counter-signatures were necessary before appliances required for unfortunate sufferers in war could be obtained from the stores. He had seen a paper demanding a paltry eighty yards of cloth which had no fewer than sixteen signatures. If the Advisory Board had on it representatives of civilian common-sense there were hopes that reforms would be introduced which would prevent the recurrence of such scandals as that of Bloemfontein, where dying men had rugs taken from their beds because the supply required could not be obtained without the signature of the commanding officer. Any sensible man would have gone to the stores and at his own initiative would have got everything necessary. That was what a German field officer would have done. The Secretary for War was well aware that the War Office system would not be tolerated for a moment in any business house in London. As long as the War Office was controlled by permanent officials and old fogeys, there would be no genuine reform. The Secretary for War, instead of pursuing his earlier purpose to reform a system of the evils of which the right hon. Gentleman himself had given examples, had allowed himself to be over-ridden by the antiquated notions of permanent officials. The Minister who was popular at the

War Office was the man who allowed himself to be ruled by the permanent officials under him. Directly the war was over there ought to have been a clean sweep of the War Office, and the old men paid off whose motto was "What is now, has been, and ever shall be." Questions of accounts, supplies of stores, and many other matters, not only in the Medical Department but in the Clothing Department, should be dealt with on common-sense and commercial lines, and by men of business habits and training.

MR. BRODRICK said he was afraid he was under considerable difficulty in following his hon. friend, who had told stories of what had occurred at Bloemfontein before the Army Medical Department had been reformed. The hon. Gentleman might have favoured the Committee, at all events, with his views as to the state of things as they were now, and not as they were in the early part of the war, in the very crisis of the emergency. He might be allowed to say that he had scarcely ever heard a general attack on the administration of a Department made on less sufficient ground than that which had been advanced by his hon. friend. The hon. Member had made a number of general statements, unsupported by facts, and he challenged them all. He asserted broadly that, both with regard to correspondence and general administration, immense progress and amelioration had taken place in the last two years. This House had done good service by calling attention to the weakness of that part of the administration of the Army. Of course, there had been great difficulties in supplying a huge army in the field, but he believed that the system now established, which involved a large increase in the number of medical officers, increase of pay, and the provision of things that had not existed before, and a variety of changes which had brought the Army Medical Service into line with the best civilian practitioners of the day, ought not to have been ignored by his hon. friend.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said that he thought the criticism on the Army Medical Department was right and just, and that practically there had been no alteration in the old system,

which had been the curse of the Army since the Crimean War. He agreed that the right hon. Gentleman had, to a certain extent, been the first to bring about a partial reform of the Army Medical Department. But the doctors were not well enough paid to give inducement to good men to enter the medical service of the Army. That was the secret of the horrible and disgraceful breakdown at the beginning of the war. The right hon. Gentleman said that all that had been remedied; but he denied it, and he maintained that the forms made use of by the Army Medical Department were a disgrace to any nation. He knew that old forms had been sent out to men who had fought in South Africa, and who were sick and ill, telling them that if they were not well by a certain time their names would be removed from the Army. If that was the way the War Office was going to encourage recruiting for the Army, a greater mistake was never made. In his opinion, the old War Office civilians had been the curse of the Army, and the ruin of its administration. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Government was going to appoint a Commission. If that Commission went thoroughly into the Army Medical Department, it would have far more effect than a debate on the conduct of our generals. The right hon. Gentleman smiled, but he knew what he was speaking about from bitter experience, for he had lost two or three of his dearest relations in the war. His heart was big for the welfare of the old Army in which he had served for ten years. The right hon. Gentleman should approach the task of cleansing this Augean stable, for until a strong man was appointed at the head of the Army the country would never have a Medical Department worthy of the name. There were many ways in which the Department could be improved. Unless the men were properly paid, and given a chance of rising and doing good to themselves, they would never get a proper and efficient Army Medical Department. At the outbreak of the war they had to scour the highways and byeways in order to get doctors for the Army. Many of these men were of the highest order of Christian doctors, and he hoped they would be

properly rewarded. He had heard only that day of a distinguished civilian doctor who had gone out to the war, but who was now to be thrown out, and not to get a step in rank. He believed if the right hon. Gentleman had the pluck to tear himself away from officialism he would make a success of the War Office.

COLONEL WELBY said he wished to ask his right hon. friend the Secretary for War a practical question. In the future, would the members of the Army Medical Department be transferable, by a single stroke of the pen at the War Office, from one Army Corps to another, or would they belong to those Army Corps and only be removable by the commanders of them?

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) said he hoped it was not a fact, as stated by the hon. and learned Member for East Finsbury, that before a medical officer could obtain medical stores for the sick and wounded, it was necessary that his order should be counter-signed. Surely commonsense and reason would say that one signature was all that was necessary to get the stores.

(11.0.) SIR J. BATTY TUKE (Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities) said he could not but think that certain hon. Members who had spoken were not aware of the important steps taken by the Secretary for War to re-organise the Army Medical Service. They had gone back in the past, and there was a great temptation for one who had followed the history of that service from the Crimean War down to the present time to do the same. But he was content to refrain from doing so, as far as possible, as he believed the scheme now at work was a whole-hearted attempt to reform the service and do justice to the Army medical officers. He congratulated the right hon. Gentleman on the adoption of a new administrative principle. All previous Ministers for War had proceeded on the assumption that they could work the machine independently of the great medical schools and the feeling of the medical profession at large. As a consequence

all previous attempts to reform the service had failed, mainly, though not entirely, from the non-recognition of the principle. He said not entirely, for failures had also been due to mal-administration of former warrants, and retrocessions on the part of the War Office in carrying out their provisions. That the right hon. Gentleman had become convinced of the necessity of recognising this principle, was shown by the fact that, of the eleven members of the Committee appointed by him, in 1901, to consider the reorganisation of the Medical Service, seven were civilians, all men who were connected with important medical schools, and by the further fact that, on the advice of that Committee, an Advisory Board had been established, four of the members of which are civilians. He congratulated the Minister for War on the establishment of this principle, which would, he believed, be of great service to the country, notwithstanding that he could not agree with him entirely on the manner in which it had been applied. His first objection was that it was impossible for these four gentlemen to perform all the duties laid upon them. The Board had to meet at fortnightly intervals; it had to report on all matters connected with medicine, surgery, sanitation, as they affected the military services; to advise on the provision and equipment of hospitals; to submit a scheme for the expansion of the service to meet the needs of war; to report on plans for hospitals, barracks, and camps; to arrange for the annual inspection of each of the military hospitals, such inspection to be usually made without notice; to supervise the examinations of candidates; and to consider the promotion of officers. How was it possible for men in active practice to perform such multifarious duties for a mere pittance of £200 a year! It was impossible; and it would be found in practice that these four gentlemen could only have referred to those special points for their advice and consideration. This would be a most important function for them to perform, but that they could carry out all that was imposed on them by the Report was impossible. Further, he wished that the hon. Gentleman had carried

out the special recommendation of Sir William Thomson, who did such excellent work in South Africa. Sir William, as a member of the Committee, in a Minority Report, recommended that the Advisory Board should be composed of representatives of the Medical Schools in the several divisions of the Kingdom. The Secretary for War had accepted this principle as regards Ireland and England, but had evaded it so far as Scotland was concerned. It was true he had appointed a gentleman in London, who held a Scottish degree but had no other connection; he had lived all his life in London, could in no way represent the feeling in Scottish schools, or adequately represent the genius of the country, and had not had any connection with military matters. He was aware that the Secretary for War took a great deal of trouble to secure a practitioner resident in Ireland, but he never once entered into communication with anyone connected with Scotland, or in any way consulted the feelings of the schools of that country. The right hon. Gentleman might ride off on the statement that of the military members of the Advisory Board, two or three were Scottish graduates. Such an argument was futile, as those gentlemen had lived their lives in the service, and could not be *en rapport* with professional feeling in the North. He might as well argue that because the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition were both Scots, the electoral representation of Scotland was on an equable footing with that of Ireland. It should be remembered that about one-third of the medical recruits came from the North, which afforded the highest class of candidates. He did not argue this from a mere provincial point of view. It was impolitic to ignore and flout these great schools. When it was considered that any scheme for the expansion of the service must depend on the assistance provided by universities, schools and hospitals, it was evidently a wise policy to keep in close touch with teaching institutions, on which must depend, to a great extent, any scheme for an Imperial Medical Reserve. The establishment of an Imperial Medical Reserve must be a chief object to be kept in view by the Secretary of State. It was impossible to keep up a standing medical force during

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times of peace sufficient for the sudden emergencies of war. This was one of the lessons we had learnt from the late war. The Army Medical Service must be made capable of rapid expansion, and this could only be effected by appealing to civilians. This was not the time to propound a scheme for the establishment of such a body; but it might be said with certainty that the War Office would have to come to the teaching institutions of the country, and demand their assistance in formulating a scheme by which a system of units could be established, ready to act under any emergency. Under these circumstances, it would have been more politic for the Secretary for War to do everything in his power to maintain the *entente cordiale* with important centres of medical education. What we did in haste during the late war must be provided for at leisure. He urged this point on the right hon. Gentleman in the interests of the Army at large. He was sure that if he would so act, he would find a ready answer to his demands. As to the New Royal Warrant, he should have liked to have spoken at more length, but other medical members were present who might desire to speak. He believed it would work well. The pay was fair; the system of examination for promotion was sound. It would do much to prevent slackness, and would give an opportunity for the better men to show what they were made of. In every service there were two curses—seniority and private influence. If the system of examination was made to exercise its due influence—if it was taken along with each man's service record, it would serve a most important function in neutralising these curses. But it must also be remembered that the thorough working of the new warrant depended on the maintenance of the Royal Army Medical Corp at a proper level. The arrangements for leave and study leave could not be worked unless the service was numerically sufficient. The warrant might easily break down in many of its most important provisions if the service was starved. But, in the hope that no retrocessions will occur, as they had occurred as regards previous warrants, he begged to congratulate the Secretary for War on the earnest effort he was making to produce a really efficient service.

DR. FARQUHARSON (Aberdeenshire, W.) said he had always taken a great interest in the Army Medical Department since he entered the House of Commons, and since he had the honour of serving his Sovereign in his old regiment. What was wanted was to try and get into the service a good running supply of the best candidates, in order that they might be able to carry out the important duties entrusted to them. In former years, the Army authorities attempted to manage medical matters without consulting the wants and wishes of the great universities and medical schools from which the candidates had been drawn. He thought, however, that his right hon. friend, who so ably occupied the position of War Minister, sincerely desired to take into his confidence the great medical schools and teaching bodies, in order to get the best possible students for the Army Medical Department. The right hon. Gentleman deserved great credit for that, and also for having taken into consideration the representations of the British Medical Association, which represented the great mass of the profession. He thought that the right hon. Gentleman and his advisers had made a large number of very valuable improvements in the original warrant, by which it was made more acceptable to the profession generally, and by which a larger number of candidates for the service would be obtained. The new warrant was extremely good, and he thought its terms were extremely favourable. He only wished he had had such terms when he was serving his country in the Army Medical Department, nearly thirty years ago. They almost made his mouth water. The right hon. Gentleman was also well advised in instituting study leave. In fact, the right hon. Gentleman had carried out many of the reforms in the Department which had been advocated year after year in Parliament. He wished to express his most emphatic admiration of the admirable work of the Army Medical Department in South Africa. There had been criticisms on its general administration, but no one had a word of criticism to offer regarding the admirable devotion of the individual members of the Department who had to face great danger and difficulty to carry out their work, and wh-

had to sacrifice, not only their comfort and convenience, but, in many cases, their lives. If they looked back on the medical history of the South African campaign, he thought it would be found that in no former war had the general results of medical and surgical treatment been so admirably successful. Of course, there were difficulties—he did not mean difficulties due to the Government, but to the exigencies of the military situation—which made the work of the Army Medical Department arduous, and occasionally impossible. But, speaking as a medical man, he said that in no former war was the medical treatment of enteric, and the surgical treatment of wounds, on anything like the same plane of success; and he thought the Army Medical Department had earned immense credit for the results which had been obtained. There were certain points in connection with the new warrant on which he most heartily congratulated his right hon. friend. One was the new position given to the Director-General of the Army Medical Department. It was always felt in the old days that the position of the Director-General was not sufficiently authoritative. Now he would be a much more authoritative person than he was before. Perhaps, he might be a little old-fashioned, but he confessed he was not quite so enthusiastic about the inclusion of the civilian element. He thought the old plan was better where the Director General had two or three experienced subordinates, each for a different Department, all of whom combined to discuss questions from the medical point of view. He agreed with his hon. friend the Member for the Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities that the civilian element was not of a sufficiently authoritative character. The only object of the element was to bring the Board into touch with the great medical schools, and unless they had men of great distinction on the Board that might not be achieved. He did not say a word against the members of the Board, who were all able men; but they had not that professional standing which was requisite. He hoped, however, that the arrangement might work well. He agreed also with his hon. friend that £200 a year was not sufficient for men

who joined the Board, as it might involve the dislocation of their other professional work. He thanked his right hon. friend cordially on behalf of the medical profession, which he only represented in a subordinate way, for his very admirable warrant, which he believed would bring peace and contentment to the Army Medical Department, and which he hoped would bring the Board into immediate and effective touch with the medical schools, with the result that there would be a good flow of the very best candidates into the service. Competition was what was wanted. When he entered the service there were nineteen competitors for sixteen vacancies. The new *regime* was a very good one; but he hoped that his right hon. friend would be prepared to take even still further advice. He wished to know the exact constitution of the new hospital to be started for the Army, and what its relations to Netley would be.

(11.26.) MR. BRODRICK said he could not specifically answer the hon. Gentleman's question, as the arrangements had not yet been completed. But they were pressing the matter forward. He was very glad to listen to the speeches which had just been delivered, because both hon. Gentlemen spoke with great authority on the subject. He was all the more gratified at the commendation which the hon. Gentleman opposite passed on the scheme when he compared it with a speech which the hon. Gentleman delivered to his constituents a few months ago, in which the hon. Gentleman denounced his administration of the War Office as being a total failure in all its branches. That speech was doubtless dished up for the consumption of the hon. Gentleman's constituents; but when the hon. Gentleman tackled the practical working of the Department, it was a great satisfaction to find that he was clothed in his right mind. He thought that, both from the hon. Gentleman's speech and from the speech of his hon. friend, the Committee would perceive that the reform of the Army Medical Department which had taken place last year had, in the main, commended itself to the medical profession. Of course, there had been criticisms—which they were glad to have; but an immense

Dr. Farquharson.

change had been made by the introduction of civil members to the Advisory Board. That change would, he believed, have a great and permanent effect on the Department. His hon. friend read out a long list of subjects which the Advisory Board had to deal with. No doubt the number was great, but he saw the minutes of the fortnightly meetings of the Board, and he could assure the Committee that the work was done in a most thorough and efficient manner; and he thought the Committee and the Army could not be too grateful to those medical gentlemen who, although in large practice themselves, had given their services to the Government. Nothing that could be offered to them in the way of money was in itself sufficient compensation. They were all eminent men, and there was every reason to be grateful to them. Some little complaint was made by his hon. friend as regards the composition of the Committee for the inspection of the hospitals, and he confessed that his hon. friend forestalled him in the line of argument he intended to take up. It was quite true that in selecting a Scotch graduate to attend the Committee, they had not asked the leading man in the profession in Scotland to attend in London, but they had set themselves to get a man of experience who, being in London, could attend the Board. There was, however, really nothing to complain of. As a matter of fact, half the members of the Advisory Board were Scotch graduates, although not the actual representatives appointed by Scotch schools. He thoroughly re-echoed what the hon. Member had said about the *personnel* of the Army Medical Department. With reference to the larger demand for officers

which would have to be met in case of war, they desired to act as closely as they could, not only with the London schools, but also with the Scotch and Irish schools; and he was glad that his hon. friend included colonial schools also. The system had already produced one remarkable result. Up to last year they had not been able to obtain a sufficient number of candidates for the vacancies on many occasions; and he would admit that last year the candidates were not up to the standard. Within the last few days, however, as the result of the change, and the general increase of confidence on the part of the medical profession in the intentions of the War Office in regard to the Army Medical Department, there were between seventy and eighty candidates for thirty-two vacancies. That was a very marked change, and he hoped it would continue. He was quite certain nothing would be wanting on the part of the War Office to secure its continuance. He attached the greatest importance to the arrangements which were being made for study leave. They had adopted in the Army Medical Department practically the system of short service which had been adopted for the Army. If a man did not like the service after two years or more, he had an opportunity of going back to civil life. He believed that to be a sound arrangement, and he also believed that the arrangement by which the medical officer at the beginning of his military career would have some sort of home would also work satisfactorily. In that respect, and in many others, he recommended of the Committee over which he presided last year would, he thought, produce excellent results in the Army Medical Department. They could not,

in the few months which had elapsed since the adoption of the reform, see the results to any large extent at present, but he had great confidence in the future. He was quite aware that they had arrears, both of knowledge and of organisation, in that and other respects, to pull up. They were learning hard the lessons of the war, and he was very sanguine that those who followed him would be able to say that, whatever else had or had not been done for the Army during the period he presided at the War Office, at all events a long step forward had been taken in the Army Medical Department.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said he desired to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman on his statement, and especially on the fact that there had been between seventy and eighty candidates for thirty-two vacancies. It was a great satisfaction to the Committee to hear such a statement as that, as it showed that good work was being done in the Army Medical Department. There was one point on which he was not quite clear, and that was the question put by the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Taunton as to the organisation of an Army Medical Corps together with an Army Corps. It was quite true, as the right hon. Gentleman pointed out, that doctors, at the beginning of their career, would be attached to a unit, but he desired to know whether the organisation of a Medical Corps would be co-ordinate with the Army Corps system. There was another question also asked, which, perhaps, could not be answered off-hand; and that was the difficulty of getting medical stores without a lot of red tape

Mr. Brodrick.

and the signatures of a number of non-medical officers. He thought there were cases during the war in which two, three, and even six signatures were required. Medical stores were sent out in great quantities, and in the hurry and hustle of the war it was inevitable, perhaps, in many cases, that they should fall short; but he was not sure that a great deal of the shortage was not due to the system under which the stores could be drawn. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give attention to the matter with the view to simplifying the system.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS said he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he intended to continue the system of requiring a number of signatures for medical stores, practically on the battlefield, when men were dying for the want of articles which were, perhaps, within twenty yards of them. It was not a case of the stores being at Capetown; they were within rifle range of where the unfortunate people were dying. A nobleman sent out a hospital at his own expense, and it was monstrous that the patients who were being attended in it should be deprived of what they required merely for the want of a few signatures. Necessaries should not be doled out on the field of battle as if they were supplies from a canteen. It was all very well for an old Army doctor like the hon. Gentleman opposite to butter up the Department. His hon. friend the Member for the Edinburgh University was far more practical. He said—what they all knew to be true—that they could not get a leading physician for £200 a year; why, they could not get a country attorney at that price.

MR. BRODRICK said it was a sufficient answer to his hon. friend that they had on the Board two such surgeons as Sir Frederick Treves and Mr. Fripp. He merely mentioned their names as an illustration, and was not putting them in any way in front of the other gentlemen on the Board. With regard to the signatures for stores, he could not speak off-hand; but it was perfectly obvious that there was no period where it was more necessary that stores should be carefully husbanded than during a campaign, or given out except under proper authority. He, however, demurred to the idea that the system was due to red tape. During the campaign an enormous number of doctors had to be sent out, many of them not conversant with the rules and regulations of the service; and stores were often delayed because men did not know their own powers, or how to order what they required.

COLONEL WELBY said he appealed to his right hon. friend to give an answer about the future of the Army Medical system in connection with the Army Corps system. If not, his only alternative would be to move a reduction. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £1,024,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Colonel Welby.*)

MR. BRODRICK said he would be very glad to answer his hon. and gallant friend. As regarded the Army Medical Corps, with the exception of a very few officers, they were at the present time

relying to a very large extent on civilians for the different stations at home; and until they could bring the medical officers home from South Africa in large numbers, which he hoped would be shortly, it would be impossible to put the new scheme into working operation. When that was done, they would endeavour to work the Army Corps system and Medical Corps system together, with the proviso that it should not extend to India.

COLONEL WELBY said that if his right hon. friend would answer the question whether an Army doctor could be moved from one Army Corps to another without any reference to India, he would be prepared to withdraw his Motion.

MR. BRODRICK said they were establishing a great variety of changes, and he could not answer the question off-hand.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.) said it was perfectly plain that the right hon. Gentleman could tell the Committee whether it was, or was not, necessary to have five or six signatures to a requisition for stores in the field. The right hon. Gentleman insinuated that the reason for the mistakes which occurred was because civilian doctors were employed. He never heard a more lame or wretched argument in his life. That had nothing whatever to do with the question. Surely the right hon. Gentleman could tell the Committee whether the wretched old forms, which had not been changed for forty years, would be altered. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to keep to the old forms, he ought to let

the Committee know. What he wanted to know was whether the right hon. Gentleman had taken any steps to simplify the old forms. That was a perfectly plain question, put in a perfectly plain way.

MR. BRODRICK said he had already informed the Committee, and thought he had made it clear, even to the hon. Gentleman, that the forms did not require six signatures. So far as he was concerned, he was perfectly ready to undertake that full attention should be given to the simplification of all medical forms. As a matter of fact, a Departmental Committee under Sir William Butler was now engaged in simplifying the medical and all other forms.

COLONEL WELBY said his only object in moving the reduction was to try and make the Army Corps, which the right hon. Gentleman himself had instituted, realities and not shams. He was quite ready to withdraw his Motion.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £120,800, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Establishments for Military Education, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903."

*SIR ARTHUR HAYTER said it was within the knowledge of the Com-
Major Jameson.

mittee that the question of military education generally had been dealt with very ably by the Committee presided over by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the St. Augustine's Division of Kent. He had no intention of referring to the outbreak at Sandhurst, much as he regretted it, but he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State whether he was satisfied with the arrangements for military education which had now been placed under the Military Secretary. He had read the evidence on the subject with as much care as he could, and he considered that the late Military Secretary gave away the whole case. That officer said that they were prevented from carrying out the recommendations with reference to military education by the war, and that they had been entirely unable to deal with it. Lord Roberts gave very important evidence, in which he said that the existing arrangements were not satisfactory, and he added that it was not the examinations that were at fault but the way that they were carried out. Lord Roberts appeared to think that the best plan would be to have a general officer as the director of military education with an Advisory Board, consisting more or less of experts, on which public schools, universities, and other educational centres would be represented. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take that suggestion of Lord Roberts into his very serious consideration. He considered that the present arrangements were very hard on Sandhurst. The pupils remained there only one year, which was practically only eight months; and it was impossible to teach them very much in that time. That was a very serious condition of

affairs, and he hoped that, with the cessation of the war, they would return to the normal period, if it were decided to keep up Sandhurst at all. Two radical changes were required at Sandhurst. What could possibly be more disadvantageous to a young man than to put him through a very severe examination on entering the College, and then leave him absolutely without any competitive examination at all when leaving. The whole system was on a wrong basis. They might have a competitive examination at the beginning and the end; but certainly they ought to have a competitive examination at the end, and not allow it to be said, as was said by the Committee, that a great many of the students who came in at the top of the list went out at the bottom, because they had no stimulus to continue their education. The second change had reference to the professors. He thought the way in which they were chosen was lamentable. Of course, there was great difficulty in selecting any man for teaching until he had been tried; but he would suggest a probationary term, after which the professors could be dismissed if they were not proficient. At present they were not selected for their teaching powers; they were not dismissed for their incompetence; they were not rewarded for ability; and they were chosen because they were men who wished to have an easy berth during the next five years. Such appointments were regarded as the backwater of the Army, since the officers hardly ever came back to military positions. There was one other thing on which he thought the right hon.

Gentleman would agree with him, and that was that the teachers should be more in touch with the classes. At present they seemed to give a lecture, and never see their pupils afterwards. Again, there were two subjects which ought not to be in the curriculum at all, namely, military law and military administration. Every experienced military witness who gave evidence before the Committee said that the men learned these subjects much better after they had joined their regiments. Military administration was comparatively simple, but could not be learned without dealing practically with the accounts of a company. With reference to military law, regimental Court Martials were nearly abolished, and no officer could serve on a district Court Martial under two years service. The young officer would be able to make himself acquainted with it after he had joined the service. If these two subjects were taken away, there would be an opening for foreign languages and other subjects. He regretted to see that the German professor had been struck off. Woolwich had a German professor with only 305 students, but Sandhurst with 360 students was only to have the occasional advantage of a German professor. He could not conceive what reason there was for that arrangement, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider it. The bright spot in the Report was the evidence as to the University candidates. There appeared to be no complaint against them with reference to discipline; and he thought it would be a very

excellent thing if the right hon. Gentleman would take into consideration the question whether the age should not be raised in favour of the University candidates.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said he thought the Vote should not be taken tonight; it would be a useful way of discussing certain questions concerning Sandhurst.

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee also report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND) [CONTRIBUTIONS].

Resolution reported—

"That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of money to be provided by Parliament, of Contributions towards the custody, industrial training, elementary education, and meals of children sent by an order of a Court (other than an attendance order) to a certified Day Industrial School, of sums not exceeding one shilling per head per week, and in the case of children without an order of the Court of a sum not exceeding sixpence a week, in pursuance of any Act of the present Session to provide for the further establishment of Day Industrial Schools in Ireland."

Resolution agreed to.

Sir Arthur Hayter.

DAY INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for Committee read.

MR. BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): I object.

MR. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) appealed to the hon. Gentleman not to persist in his objection. The Commission recently appointed by the Lord Lieutenant had reported in favour of the Bill. There was nothing contentious in it, and Amendments which had been moved by the Chief Secretary had been agreed to.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, Dover) said he wished to point out to his hon. friend that there were similar schools in England and Scotland.

MR. BANBURY: I object.

MR. HARRINGTON said he would withdraw the measure. The Government were responsible.

Order for Committee read, and discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

Adjourned at five Minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 18th July, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—

New Forest (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

HULL, BARNSELY, AND WEST RIDING JUNCTION RAILWAY AND DOCK (SOUTH YORKSHIRE EXTENSION LINES) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn: The orders made on the 1st instant and yesterday discharged, and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

BRISTOL CORPORATION BILL [H.L.],
MEDWAY AND THAMES CANAL BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

COMMONS REGULATION (SODBURY) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 14th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a (*The Earl Howe*); agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6.) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4.) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): the Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made: Standing Committee negatived: Report of Amendments to be received on Monday next.

LAND DRAINAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10.) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Tuesday next.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS (EXTENSION) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order), and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act 1899) deemed to have been reported from the Committee: Bills to be read 3^a on Monday next.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (SUBWAYS AND TRAMWAYS) BILL.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

Report from the Committee of Selection, that the Lord Wandsworth be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Brassey; and that the Earl of Yarborough be Chairman of the said Committee; read and agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES.)

Sixteenth Annual Report of the inspectors, for 1901.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) 1901.

Part II. Civil Statistics.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Report of the Commissioners, for the period from 1st April 1901 to 31st March 1902.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

2 B

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statute made by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, on 20th March 1902, amending Statute III., 12 (Fellowships held by Professors) of the Statutes of the College: Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES) (IRELAND) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

SHOP CLUBS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

NEW FOREST (SALE OF LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES) BILL.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BELPER: My Lords, this is a small Bill, which has passed the other House, the object of which is to empower the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to sell pieces of land in the New Forest for sanitary purposes. The case for the Bill is this: The soil of the New Forest is vested in the Crown, and it appears that the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods and Forests have no power to sell any land without an Act of Parliament. As long ago as 1884 it was found that the sanitary arrangements of Lyndhurst, which is within the limits of the New Forest, were very bad, and the Local Government Board came to the conclusion that not only the sanitary arrangements, but also the water supply, were deplorable. Since that time a proper water supply has been provided, but great difficulty has been experienced, in consequence of there being no land, in carrying out sewerage works, and this Bill is for the purpose of giving the Commissioners power to sell land, and the parish authorities power to purchase it in the interests of the public health of the locality. The Bill is carefully guarded in the matter of the consent of the Local Government

Board and a proper local inquiry. The provisions of the Bill are practically concurred in by all the persons locally interested, and have been accepted by the Commons Preservation Society.

Bill read 2^a, and committed for Monday next.

TRANSVAAL CONCESSIONS COMMISSION—POSITION OF THE NETHERLANDS RAILWAY.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the finding of the Transvaal Concessions Commissioners in regard to the Netherlands South African Railway Company, that—

“The Company did, before war was declared, initiate and organise elaborate plans, and afterwards effectively carried them out, causing great damage, delay, and loss to the Queen's armies.”

And to ask whether action has been taken, or is going to be taken, to punish the Company for these belligerent operations. The active part which was taken by the Netherlands Railway Company in the late war is a matter of considerable notoriety. I ventured, just a year ago,† to bring the finding of the Commissioners before your Lordships, and to ask what indemnity, or other punishment, it was intended to inflict for the unwarrantable attack by this Company on Great Britain. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs told me at that time that the matter was under consideration, that a correspondence was taking place with foreign Powers, and that His Majesty's Government were unable at that moment to give me any answer. A year has elapsed, and I now venture to repeat my question. The facts are not in dispute; they have been investigated, and I am anxious to know whether anything has been done, or is going to be done, to punish the Company for their operations. When I brought this matter before your Lordships a year ago, I entered in considerable detail into the investigations of the Commission, and, therefore, it will not be necessary for me today to trouble your Lordships with more than a very few remarks on that part of the subject. As I have said, the

† See (4) *Debates* xcii., 8.

main facts are not in dispute; but, lest it should be supposed that anything is wanting to make the case against this railway company complete, I would remind your Lordships that, according to their own admissions, the managers and the staff in South Africa, the board of directors in Amsterdam, and also the shareholders, aided and abetted, more or less actively, in the action that was taken at that time by the Company. Just before the outbreak of the war, M. Van Kretschmar, the directing manager of the railway in the Transvaal, took a very lively and direct interest in the prospects of the Republic. He called their attention to the fact that they had not sufficiently provided for defence and offence, and went so far as to produce schemes, and give them advice as to how they should attack Natal and defend themselves. He did more. He suggested that the employees of the Company should be commandeered, and he paid those employees while they were actually engaged in operations against the British troops. He directed those operations, suggested that they should blow up bridges, and acted from beginning to end as an open enemy of this country. So much for the direction. I will now read to your Lordships what M. Van Kretschmar's opinion was as to the result of his action. After the fortunes of war had turned, he wrote to his directors in Amsterdam as follows—

"I am afraid we have hopelessly compromised ourselves in deed, word, and writing. We have made cannon and ammunition; we have sold material to the Republics; we have blown up bridges on English territory, and have not discharged our staff on commando."

Passing to the staff, how did they carry out M. Van Kretschmar's directions? They assumed open action as belligerents; they blew up the bridge at Colenso, and when the Boers were in retreat subsequent to the relief of Ladysmith, they also broke up the line of railway and protected the retreating enemy. Another portion of the railway staff blew up bridges in Cape Colony and protected the retreating Boers by destroying the communications. We have it on record, in a letter written by M. Van Kretschmar, that the Board in Amsterdam were greatly pleased with the action he had taken in the first instance; but when the fortunes of war

changed they recognised that what had been done might prove detrimental to their interests, and they advised M. Van Kretschmar to take up a different line of action, to which he replied—

"I like to hear your judgment—you who were so proud when you heard of the deeds of heroism of the Company in the destruction of bridges, etc., and wished for special data in order to refer to it in your Annual Report. We are now once for all in a boat, and must remain in it to the other bank."

When the Transvaal Concessions Commission was sitting, they invited the Board of this Company in Amsterdam to send witnesses to give some account of themselves and explain what had been done, but from that day to this no answer has been received from the Board, and we must therefore assume that they agreed with the action of their manager in South Africa. Even the shareholders received the Report in silent acquiescence, and it was not till the war was nearly over that they ventured to intimate some doubts as to the wisdom of the course that had been followed. There is no doubt that the servants of this Railway Company openly aided and abetted belligerent operations against the British troops, and we have the right to exact the full penalty for this audacity. In justice to the taxpayer that penalty ought to be exacted, for no inconsiderable part of the cost of the war was due to the destruction of the communications by the Company's servants. I submit that the fact that there are foreign shareholders of the Company has nothing to do with the question. The point in question is, What is the damage that has been done to this country? And it is only right and fair that the people who did the damage should pay for it. I regret the long delays and correspondence which have taken place, because they suggest that this country is to get nothing in the end. This is the most flagrant case I have ever heard of; and if by any misfortune the penalty which is undoubtedly due is not exacted, then our leniency will be entirely misplaced and very much misunderstood.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY said the word "punish" in the noble Earl's Question was not in accord with the general amnesty which, though not proclaimed, had been virtually acted upon in South Africa. He took it that this Company was composed, not of Transvaalers, but of Dutchmen, and they had

a perfect right to do the best they could for their fellow countrymen in South Africa. The feelings of the Dutch had not been properly understood, because the history of the Boer War which had been most in circulation began in 1806 instead of in 1795; thus misleading by an error of eleven years. In 1795 the Duke of York, with a British army, was in the Low Countries in alliance with, and in support of, the Dutch against the French. He had always regarded the noble Earl who had asked this Question as a sensible and moderate Liberal; and as the feeling of the country was that the Liberal Party in both Houses wanted strengthening, he hoped to see the noble Earl join the Opposition, and in that way make the Opposition Benches less attenuated and more respectable.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The EARL of ONSLOW): My Lords, the belligerent acts of the Company are admitted on all hands. At the time the war broke out the Company was paying a handsome dividend, and its shares stood at 230 or 240. As soon as the British troops occupied the country through which the railway ran, the railway was taken possession of by them. That itself is a serious penalty. The noble Earl said that there had been considerable delay in announcing the intentions of the Government. That delay hurts the shareholders much more than His Majesty's Government, because in the meanwhile the shareholders are not receiving a penny. The Transvaal Concessions Commission advised the Government that this concession ought not to be recognised; and His Majesty's Government thought that in that recommendation the Commission were perfectly correct. But the money invested by the railway was invested by different classes of persons. There were those who invested money on debenture. They had no voice in the management of the railway. Others invested in shares, and it was within their power to control the board of directors who sat at Amsterdam. It was in the power of the directors to dismiss their officers in South Africa. These two classes of investors ought to be treated very differently; and His Majesty's Government do not intend to allow the debenture-holders to suffer for action which they could not control.

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

But with regard to the shareholders, the concession not being recognised, the whole matter is entirely in the hands of His Majesty's Government, who are still considering what, if anything, should be done *ex gratia*, but not of right, for those who have *bonâ fide* invested their money in the shares. The noble Earl may rest assured that the damage inflicted on the armies of the King will not be left out of consideration in any arrangement which may hereafter be come to *ex gratia* with the shareholders.

CHINA—GENERAL POSITION—RUSSIA AND MANCHURIA—ANGLO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE—ANGLO-ITALIAN RELATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

*EARL SPENCER rose to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to inform the House as to the position of affairs in China since the return of the Chinese Court to Peking, especially in regard to—

1. The Port of Neuchwang.
2. The Northern Chinese railways in which the British interests are large.
3. The arbitration as to land at Tientsin.
4. The evacuation of Tientsin by the Allied Forces.
5. The present position of Russia in regard to Manchuria.
6. The payment of the Chinese indemnity, and whether the effect of the depreciation in silver has led to any alteration in the mode of paying the indemnity by gold.
7. As to the position of this country and of other countries at Shanghai.
8. Whether his attention has been called to the statement that great surprise has been caused in Japan by language used on behalf of the Government in another place respecting the Anglo-Japanese Treaty; and whether he is in a position to correct the misapprehension which appears to have been created.

9. Whether he can make any statement as to the relations between this country and Italy in the Mediterranean.

He said: My Lords, notwithstanding what was said a few minutes ago by the noble Lord near me (Lord Stanley of

Alderley), I hope the House will agree that I come from a respectable Bench, and am a respectable member of your Lordships' House. I have today followed the course which I have adopted before with regard to questions on foreign affairs; and I have set out at some length the points to which I hope the noble Marquess will refer. I shall follow the divisions of the subject as they appear on the Paper in the few remarks I intend to make. First of all I have referred to the port of Neuchwang. Now we have had that before us on previous occasions, and the noble Marquess has given us explanations about it. Your Lordships all know that this port is a very important one for British commerce. I believe I am right in saying that we have more trade and commerce with that port than almost any other nation. There have been various questions as to the government of this town and port. At one time it was almost wholly under the government of Russia. I should like to know how far a change has taken place in regard to this. As we all know, there has been a considerable change with regard to the influence and interference of Russia in China within the last few years. I should like very much to know whether the government of Neuchwang has been now made over again to China, and, at all events, whether that treaty port, which is of such importance to our commerce, has now the same advantages for us and other nations as it had before the disturbances which took place in China. Now there is a question with regard to the railroads in the north of China. That, too, has been the subject of considerable difficulty in that country, and has been made the subject of various discussions in Parliament. There are two railroads, which were, I believe, entirely under the control of the Chinese Government, in which English investors have very great interest indeed. These two railroads are the railroad to Shan-hai-kwan and the railroad between Tientsin and Shan-hai-kwan. At one time, I believe, the Russian Government had, for various reasons—probably strategical reasons—taken control chiefly of these railroads. There have been various appeals that the management of these railroads should be once more transferred to the Chinese Government, and that the interests of

this country should be respected on these railroads. I should be glad to know whether that has been carried out. We all know that, by arrangement between China and Russia, Russia was to be allowed, not complete control, but nearly complete control of the railroads north of the Great Wall. These railroads do not go as far as that, and therefore I believe I have a right to ask whether any change has taken place with regard to these great commercial undertakings. Then there was a very acute disturbance and controversy about certain lands, also, I believe, connected with some railroads, at Tientsin. The noble Marquess—either himself or the noble Marquess the late Prime Minister—dealt effectively with that and obtained redress for the British, who claimed possession of some of the land which had been taken over for various reasons by Russia. This question was at last referred to arbitration, and we do not know—at least, I am not aware—how far that arbitration has been settled. These are all questions more or less connected with Russia in the Far East.

Of course the greatest question of all is the position of Russia in Manchuria. I hardly know how that stands now; but we have been told in the public Press that within the last few months considerable changes and modifications in the position of Russia have been made in that country. I have always felt, in regard to our policy with Russia in the East, that we have not been altogether fortunate in dealing with this matter. We heard long ago of the vast map of the East—that it was so large that we need not be afraid of Russia's acquiring an ice-free port in these seas. We have had various negotiations, and we have had more than once to oppose the policy of Russia in China. But, unfortunately, it has seemed to me, we never looked forward sufficiently in our policy; and eventually we had on more than one occasion to withdraw our opposition; and then our agreement with Russia, instead of being a gracious and spontaneous one, came in a very different spirit from us. I should like to know in what position Russia is in regard to that country. We know that she has now a railroad connecting the eastern part of her great Empire with Manchuria and China, and it may be

that all she is doing now is to defend this railroad against any inroads of the Chinese. But we hardly know yet whether she has fulfilled what I believe was some assurance on her part that at a certain time she would relinquish once more to the Government of China this large and rich province.

Now there is another matter which we have discussed in this House, and we have had some very interesting statements from the noble Marquess on the subject. I refer to the financial position of China. We all know what an important part the tax known as the *likin* tax plays in that country. We have heard from the noble Marquess, if I am not wrong in saying so, that he hoped to get some large concession from the Chinese Government about this tax. Of course *likin* applies to the internal government of the country as well as to foreigners and to Customs. Probably if we had our way we should say it is as much in the interests of China and of the large population there as in the interests of those who are trading with China that this duty, both internal and external, should, if not altogether done away with, be greatly modified. At the same time, we know there are serious difficulties with regard to it. If the public Press is correct, there have been a great many changes of policy on that matter; but, so far as I can gather now, we are still pressing for the reduction of this *likin* on Customs, but we have been obliged almost entirely to relinquish our pressure with regard to the *likin* in the internal parts of China. No doubt the noble Marquess will be able to tell us something about that. It is a very important thing; for the financial position of this great country is of the utmost value to all those trading with her, as well as to the enormous population over which she rules.

But I have rather diverted from the actual list of my questions. I ought to come to the question of the Chinese indemnity. We and other nations had a most absolute right to demand serious indemnity from China for the serious outrages that took place in that country both on persons and on property belonging to foreign subjects. The indemnity was settled after very considerable difficulty; but I am afraid lately a very serious addition to the difficulty has

occurred owing to the great depreciation in silver. The indemnity was to be in gold; but almost all the transactions of China are in silver, and that is the current coin in that country. If that be so, the great depreciation in silver has had a very serious effect on China with regard to the payment of the indemnity. It has added, no doubt, greatly to the difficulty which that country has in paying the indemnity; and it is a matter of great interest to know whether, in regard to the future financial position of that country, which is of such great importance to us and to the other countries of the world—whether anything has been done to try to meet, temporarily or permanently, this great additional burden on China. I am not going to refer, except in passing, to what has been often discussed—namely, our position in the Yang-tze region. That is the region which has been rather marked out by agreements—and, if not by agreements, by understandings—between us and other countries for the influence of this country. I shall not dwell upon that, although I think a great deal might be said as to our position with regard to Germany in that region. But I should like to know, as there has been a great deal of observation about it, whether any difficulty has arisen at Shanghai between us and other Powers. Shanghai is one of the most important places with regard to commerce in the Eastern seas. It is a place where we have had a very great, if not a predominant, influence. But, as far as I know there is no reason whatever why other nations should not occupy a position of great influence there as well as ourselves; and I therefore do not quite understand the extreme jealousy that has existed with regard to the increasing influence of other countries in Shanghai. Perhaps the noble Marquess will tell us something about it.

Before I leave the question of China, I should rather like to say this. I do not say it with special reference to the noble Marquess and his administration of foreign affairs, but I cannot help thinking that of late years our whole policy in the East and in China has been wanting in foresight. We have had a policy rather of going from hand to mouth; a policy of the moment. We have not looked forward

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sufficiently, and we have not made up our minds clearly as to exactly what we should do. The consequence of that has been that there has been considerable vacillation, and from time to time our policy has been abruptly and suddenly altered. What has happened in regard to Port Arthur and Wei-Hai-Wei, I think, indicates want of consistency and firmness in the policy and intentions of His Majesty's Government. I will merely say that I sincerely trust the noble Marquess and His Majesty's Government are following a stronger and better course than that I have indicated. They may deny that their previous conduct has been characterised by want of decision; but I cannot help hoping that they have a clear and distinct policy before them, and will carry it out not only with regard to the interests of this country, but in harmony with other nations.

I have an important question to ask as to Japan. It is not long ago that we all heard with great pleasure of the good understanding and the treaty which the noble Marquess concluded with Japan. Some of us may have doubted whether the actual treaty was necessary, though I am sure all of us, and anybody who knew Japan and the East, welcomed this proof that we were trying to encourage and cement good feeling with that country. Nothing that has occurred since has altered that feeling. I think the feeling has been strengthened, and I think that almost everybody rejoices that this treaty has been carried out. It has I hope been conducive to good results in the East. Not very long ago in another place some discussion took place upon it; and I cannot help thinking that there was some misunderstanding with regard to some words which possibly dropped out, and which certainly were not intended to have the purport which was given to them. They were words used by an important member of the Government, and some people thought the terms used were somewhat arrogant. I cannot help thinking that there was a misunderstanding about this, and there was no such intention on the part of His Majesty's Government. At the same time considerable attention was called to these words. Those gentlemen who are often very well

informed—sometimes we think almost better informed than His Majesty's Government—drew attention to them and stated that they had produced in Japan a very bad impression. It was on that account, in order to give an opportunity for explanations, that I included this question among those which I have put.

I now come to my last point. It is a very important one, and yet I do not think that we need have any anxiety with regard to it. A good deal of discussion has occurred within the last few weeks with regard to Italy and our relations with that country. A good deal of unnecessary anxiety has been shown with regard to this matter. That anxiety arose in consequence of a rumour, which I believe to be true, that the Italian Government had come to some direct friendly relations with France. I feel sure that your lordships will agree that it is in our interests to be on the most friendly terms with France; I hope we are so at the present moment. But I cannot see why if Italy, with whom we have always had the very closest sympathy and alliance, draws nearer to France, we should feel any anxiety or jealousy whatsoever. It seems to me that the closer France is drawn to her nearest neighbour, Italy, the better security there is for there not being any trouble in the Mediterranean. I am quite sure your Lordships will agree with me that there is no country in the world to whom our sympathies are drawn more closely than to Italy. I therefore hardly understand the anxiety which is felt on this matter. I hope the noble Marquess will be able to give an assurance, which we shall all welcome, that there need be no anxiety in this country with regard to our foreign relations with any Power in the Mediterranean. I now ask the questions of which I have given notice.

* THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The MARQUESS of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, the noble Earl began his statement by a few words in justification of the form of the Questions on the Paper. Perhaps he will allow me to say that if any Member of your Lordships' House is a gainer by the detail with

which he has worded his notice, I am that Member. It was thoughtful of him to give me so plain an indication of the points on which he desired information. I will take first the noble Lord's question with regard to the port of Neuchwang and the Northern Chinese railways, in which, as he truly says, this country is largely interested. The northern railways may be conveniently dealt with in two parts. There are those lines which are within the Great Wall and those which are without it. With regard to the extra-mural part of the northern railways, and in regard to the town of Neuchwang, the importance of which the noble Lord certainly did not overrate, we have to consider how matters stand in consequence of that convention between Russia and China to which the noble Earl referred, and which was signed in April of the present year. Under that convention Russia undertakes the restoration of the province of Manchuria to the Chinese Government, that it shall remain an integral part of the Chinese Empire, and that the Chinese authorities are to exercise within the province the powers of administration which they possessed before it was occupied by the Russian troops. That is qualified by an intimation that the evacuation of Manchuria is to take place by three successive instalments. In the first six months after the signature of the convention, the Russian troops are to evacuate the south-west part of the province of Mukden, and they are to restore the railways within that part of the province to the Chinese Government. In the following six months the Russian troops are to retire from the remaining part of Mukden and the province of Kirin. The remainder of the withdrawals are to take place in the third period of six months. We gather from that that the extra-mural line will be surrendered by the Russian authorities within the first six months, which I presume will run from the month of April this year, and that the city of Neuchwang will probably be restored to the Chinese in the second period, although I may perhaps add that from intimations which have been made by the Russian Government, we infer that they will be disposed to restore Neuchwang at the same time as the city of Tientsin is restored to the Chinese Government.

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The intramural portion of the railways, your Lordships will recollect, was handed over by the Russians to the Germans and by the Germans to us, and it is at this moment in our occupation; but we have never desired to retain it a day longer than was necessary, and we are at this moment fully prepared to hand it over to the Chinese Railway Administration. But in common prudence we must before we do so be satisfied that sufficient arrangements are made and sufficient precautions taken to safeguard the large British financial interests in the line, and also to secure it as a means of communication between Peking and the sea. It seems to us absolutely necessary that for that purpose some arrangements should be made for establishing contact between the military authorities and the authorities who have the management of the railway. I am able to say that some time ago agreements were signed between representatives of His Majesty's Government and the Chinese authorities which seemed to us to provide adequately for the precautions the necessity of which I have indicated. A difficulty has arisen at the last moment, not between us and the Chinese, but between the Chinese and another Power; and that has for the moment prevented the completion of the transaction. Until these difficulties are removed we are obliged to remain in military occupation of the line. But I am glad to be able to add that, so far as I can foresee, those difficulties are not likely to prove of a very serious character, and we may look forward to being able at an early date to replace the line in the hands of the Chinese.

Then the noble Earl questioned me with regard to Tientsin; and again in relation to Tientsin I have to say that it has for a long time past been our earnest desire that the provisional Government established there should be brought to an end, and the Government of the city again placed in the hands of the Chinese. But in this case also it was necessary for us to make some preliminary arrangements. Your Lordships will recollect the important strategical position which Tientsin occupies between Peking and the sea-board, and your Lordships also remember that it was part of the arrangement arrived at with the other Powers that a military

garrison should, for some time at all events, be left at Tientsin. The question of these precautionary arrangements was therefore primarily a military question, and as such we referred it to the commanding officers of the international contingents. These military authorities presented us with a scheme, of which I desire to speak with the utmost respect, but of which I have to say that it seemed to us rather too military in character and to have not quite sufficient regard for political as distinguished from purely military considerations. At any rate, we have given instructions for the revision of the scheme; and I am glad to be able to tell your Lordships that it has been redrafted, that it has been considerably modified in directions favourable to the Chinese, and that the modified version has been accepted by the other four Powers interested in the provisional Government. We have, moreover, every reason to believe that it will be accepted by China also. I ought to say that the original scheme contained stipulations that Chinese troops should be excluded from a very large area indeed in the neighbourhood of Tientsin, an area which we thought unreasonably large, and that the new scheme provides that the area of exclusion shall be about one-twentieth of the size of the original area. We have also obtained the elimination of a Clause under which it was to be a part of the contract that the Powers were to insist on the carrying out of certain concessions which, it appears, had been promised by the provisional Government, and which it seemed to us it was scarcely necessary to insist upon in an arrangement of this kind. We hope that under this new arrangement the city of Tientsin may be restored to the Chinese authorities in three or four weeks.

The noble Earl spoke of another matter concerning the city of Tientsin—I mean the dispute which arose there last year with regard to certain plots of land within the Russian concession in which British interests were involved. The noble Earl is quite correct. We have always held that this was a dispute which could be properly settled only by arbitration. The Russian Government has agreed to that. Each

side has appointed its own representative; they have accepted an arbitrator; and the terms of reference, which seem to me eminently reasonable and with which I need not trouble the House, have been agreed upon. It was expected that the first sitting of the tribunal would take place in the early days of the present month.

The noble Earl asks a question with regard to the present position of Russia in reference to Manchuria. I have already touched to some extent upon that point. All that I need add is that the Convention which I have quoted has been published, and we have every hope that it may be given effect to in due time. So far as we can see, the provisions which it contains are not of an unreasonable kind or more extreme than might naturally be resorted to for the purpose of preventing a recrudescence of the terrible disorders which at one time prevailed in the province.

Then the noble Earl called attention to the question of the Chinese indemnity. That is a matter which has given us not a little anxiety. I may say that the first instalment of the indemnity has already been paid, and we have thought it right to earmark our share of it for the purpose of satisfying the claims of those unfortunate persons who lost relatives during the late disorders, and also to settle the claims of the smaller claimants, who presumably stand in greater need of receiving the money; and, in order to give priority to these claims, we agreed to postpone for the present the claims of the Government. The noble Earl called attention to the effect produced upon the Chinese liability by the recent heavy fall in exchange. The sum total of the indemnity was, as your Lordships recollect, expressed in taels, but it was clearly laid down in the Protocol of 1901 that it was to be a gold debt. The idea of the Powers was that, if any one was to run a risk on account of the possibility of a fall in exchange, that risk should fall upon China, and not upon the Powers. Since that time the gold value of the tael has fallen from about 3s. to something a little over half-a-crown, and I need scarcely point out what a serious addition that involves to the indebtedness of China. I do not think I should be

far wrong if I said that it means an addition of something like ninety millions of taels to the total amount of the obligations which China has incurred.

My Lords, our feeling towards the Chinese, although we have been justly indignant at their conduct, has never been one of vindictiveness, and we have never sought to punish them for their misdoings by imposing on them a sacrifice so heavy that the country would be unable to bear it. In these circumstances we have thought it proper to propose to the other Powers that we should agree to some mitigation of our demands on the Chinese Government. The form which we proposed that this mitigation should take was this—that we should agree to accept during the first eight years a sum in taels not greater than that which would have been due to us had the tael remained at the gold value at which it stood at the time of the Protocol. I gather that our proposal did not, when it was first put before the other Powers, receive much encouragement. I believe, however, that we stand by no means alone in the desire to give the Chinese Government some relief of this kind. There may be a difference as to the most proper way of affording such relief, but the object which several of the Powers, and notably the United States, have in view is, I believe, the same. I hope your Lordships will not differ from me when I say that the case is one in which it seems to me we ought to strain every effort to act with the other Powers, and for this reason. In the first place the relief to China will obviously be very much greater if it is afforded not by one or two Powers but by the whole of the Powers concerned. Again, it would certainly not be fair that we should bear the burden of this sacrifice and that no share should be taken by any one else. In this as in other cases I hold strongly that we should, not each of us play for our own hand, but that we should, by the frankest and most confidential exchange of ideas, endeavour to arrive at a common policy and a common mode of giving effect to it.

The noble Earl referred to the position of affairs as affecting this country and other countries at Shanghai. He asked me whether we had encountered any difficulties at that place with other Powers. I am not aware of any such

difficulties. There are at present four Powers represented at Shanghai. We have a small force there, and the Germans, the French, and the Japanese have each one, but I have not heard of any friction of the kind to which the noble Earl refers. The mention of Shanghai leads me, however, to refer—indeed, I could hardly avoid doing so—to a matter in which Shanghai figures largely. I mean the negotiations which are now proceeding there under the guidance of Sir James Mackay. Your Lordships will remember that under the 11th Article of the Protocol it is provided that China should make certain arrangements for the facilitation of commerce between herself and other Powers, and for some time past Sir James Mackay has been endeavouring to arrive at an understanding with the Chinese Government upon this most important subject. He has had a task of enormous difficulty; he has had to deal with an immense number of very complex points; he has had to be constantly vigilant for fear that any concession which he might make might prejudicially affect the commercial interests of this country; and I am afraid that his difficulties have been aggravated not a little by the dilatory methods which we know are not unusual in Chinese diplomacy. I am glad to say, however, that Sir James Mackay has been able to report a very considerable amount of progress. He has, moreover, lately taken what I must say appears to me a most judicious and commendable step; he has gone with the Chinese Commissioner Sheng to Han-kau, and he has been in direct personal consultation with the two Viceroy's there. The result of the negotiations has already been hopeful.

Sir James has reported in the last few days that he has been able to arrive at an agreement upon Clauses relating to the following subjects:—The protection of trade marks, the extension of the system of bonded warehouses, the improvement of the Canton and Yang-tsze River approaches—a very important matter—the equalisation of the duties upon goods carried in junks and those carried upon steamers—the discrimination between which had operated very adversely upon our trade—the speedier issue of drawback certificates, and

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the recognition of the obligations of Chinese shareholders in British companies. What used to happen was that Chinese investors took shares in British companies, and then, when calls were made upon them, absolutely ignored the intimation they received, the state of the Chinese law being such that it was impossible to obtain redress before the Chinese tribunals. This was a point which the commercial community felt most deeply. In addition to that, Sir James Mackay has arrived at a general agreement with regard to a Clause for the establishment of a national currency which would be the only legal tender for the payment of taxes and duties. Those of your Lordships who have any idea of the present condition of the Chinese coinage, which, I believe, consists in great part of uncoined masses of silver of different size and different fineness, will be able to appreciate how greatly the interests of the country are likely to be advanced if its coinage is placed on a more satisfactory basis. Besides that there is a satisfactory Clause with regard to mining regulations on the model of the Indian mining regulations.

Of course, what overshadows all other points in regard to these commercial matters is the question of *likin*. We had always hoped that we should be able to remove the great part, at all events, of the abuses which surround the *likin* system, and your Lordships may recollect that during the Peking negotiations we absolutely refused to agree to any enhancement of the Customs tariff except upon the condition that these abuses should be, to some extent at all events, mitigated. We have had many schemes proposed to us, and we have found great difficulty in discovering anything that promised to be capable of satisfactory application. We have always been face to face with these two difficulties—in the first place, if we agreed to an increase of the Customs duties as a consideration for the reform of the *likin*, are we perfectly certain that we should not have to submit to the sacrifice and yet find that the old abuses in some insidious shape or another still survived? That is one point. The other is this—that the provincial authorities in China, who play such a large part in their political system, depend upon the income derived

from these internal duties for the financial resources of their provinces; and we have to be extremely careful that we do not bring about some arrangement under which the provincial governors would find themselves absolutely denuded of their source of income.

Within the last few hours, I may say, I have received from Sir James Mackay a proposal which we have not yet had time to examine with the care it demands, but which at first sight seems to us to promise a basis for an arrangement which shall not be open to the objections I have indicated, and which may be the means of giving a very much extended scope and greater facilities to our commerce in the Far East. I need not say that we shall make it our business before we accept a scheme of the kind to consult the best commercial authorities available.

The noble Earl animadverted upon what he described as the failure of the Government to maintain a continuous policy in dealing with Chinese affairs. I do not know that we are open to that charge, and I think I can describe in a few words what I believe has been our policy, and what seems to me should be our policy, in dealing with China. I think we ought to avoid any measures tending towards the partition of the Chinese Empire. I think we ought to avoid any steps tending to place her Government in the tutelage of any foreign Power. I think we should spare no pains to obtain the utmost freedom for our commerce and for the commerce of the world in the Chinese Empire. And I think we should endeavour to do these things so far as possible in close concert with other Powers interested in the Far East.

The noble Earl has called attention to a statement made by my noble friend, Lord Cranborne, in another place in regard to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. Let me, before I go on, thank the noble Earl for the words of approval with regard to that alliance which fell from him. The expression to which the noble Earl referred was used by my noble friend in the course of a long debate, during which he replied to a great number of criticisms of very various kinds. Among those criticisms two have been conspicuous. It has been

suggested that we were in a position of such dangerous isolation that we were obliged to sue for alliances, and that we went to Japan and asked for such an alliance. The other suggestion was that the Anglo-Japanese Alliance was a very good thing in its way, but that we should have had it long ago, and that we might have had it for the asking. Now, Lord Cranborne's speech was directed to those suggestions. He insisted very distinctly, in the first place, that we had not been suppliants for the Japanese or any other alliance, and in the next place, that when there is any question of an alliance between two Powers dealing on equal terms, it is not open to one of the Powers to go to the other and ask at any moment for an alliance, but that there must be negotiations, and that the appropriate moment for concluding a contract of the kind is when both Powers have compared their views and ascertained what interests are common to them, and are both ready to embody those interests in a pact of a binding character. Those sentiments may be discovered in the speech my noble friend delivered in the House of Commons and in the statements I have made to your Lordships here, and we do not recede from them. If there was any ambiguity in his words, that ambiguity was removed by an answer given on the following day by the present Prime Minister, who explained that nothing was further from our thoughts than to suggest that the Anglo-Japanese Agreement was not made on terms of absolute equality between the two Powers concerned. The noble Earl seems to be under the impression that my noble friend's statement occasioned great perturbation in Japan. I am rather inclined to think it created more perturbation in this country than in Japan.

EARL SPENCER: I was quoting from a paragraph, dated July 9, telegraphed from Japan to a leading journal.

* THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: Since the noble Earl put this Question on the Paper I have made inquiries, and am quite satisfied that, if any uneasiness was occasioned by the very

condensed reports which, no doubt, were telegraphed from this country to Japan, that uneasiness has been completely dispelled.

It remains for me to say a few words in regard to the question as to the relations between this country and Italy in the Mediterranean. I could answer the noble Earl's Question almost in a single sentence by saying that I believe those relations to be of the most cordial and friendly character. I have heard it said that this country, if it has gained an alliance with Japan, has, either by its own remissness, or owing to the machinations of other Powers, lost an alliance with Italy. My Lords, I am bound to state to your Lordships that there never was, as far as I am aware, an alliance between this country and Italy of the same character as the alliance which now exists between this country and Japan. It is quite true that in 1887 there was an exchange of views between the Governments of the two countries—an exchange of views which established the fact that those views on the question of Mediterranean policy were identical, or, at any rate, closely resembled one another. Both countries desired the maintenance of the *status quo* in the Mediterranean and the adjoining seas. Both of us desired that there should be no encroachment upon the independence of the territories on the Mediterranean seaboard, and both of us desired that our diplomacy should be directed to those objects, and that, should the occasion arise, we might be found co-operating for the purpose of maintaining those interests. But that expression of policy was certainly not embodied in any treaty or communicated to Parliament as the Anglo-Japanese Agreement was. Its value lay not in the engagements assumed, but in the fact that it contained a re-affirmation of our traditional friendship with Italy and a re-affirmation of the common policy of the two countries. My Lords, from that declaration of policy we, at any rate, have never receded. We are ready to-day to re-affirm the same principles—to re-affirm our friendship for Italy, our desire that the *status quo* in the Mediterranean shall not be disturbed, and

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our hope that, should it ever be disturbed, we may find ourselves acting in co-operation with Italy.

But what seems to me more important than any diplomatic documents of the kind described is the actual condition of our relations with the Italian Government. I say that I am not able to discern any single point at which our relations with Italy as matters now stand are likely to be affected. We had, it is true, a short time ago one or two, I will not say differences, but one or two matters which required a certain diplomatic adjustment. There was the use of the Italian language in Malta. That has been satisfactorily disposed of. Then we had a question of boundaries where the British, Italian, and Abyssinian frontiers meet. That is a difficulty which, I think, was due more to our ignorance of the geographical features of the country concerned than to any other cause. It is a remote region, and consequently we found that there was a conflict of evidence as to the precise position of particular localities; but that question has also been satisfactorily disposed of. Finally—and perhaps this is the most serious matter of the three—there was the question of Tripoli. In 1899 my predecessor came to an agreement with the French Government under which a line which was to run in a south-easterly direction below Tripoli was laid down as the division between the French and British spheres of influence. I dwell upon the fact that the line then laid down was not a line of partition. It did not imply that we on one side and the French on the other claimed as our own the territory to the east and west of the line. What it did imply, and what we accepted, was that this line was one which in no circumstances either we or France should pass over, either eastward or westward as the case might be. Undoubtedly, the effect of this agreement was to create some misgivings in the minds of the Italian Government. They thought that they detected in it an intention on our part to disturb the *status quo* on the littoral of the Mediterranean. We have had explanations with them on this point, and they have also had explanations with the French Government. Both the French and the British

Governments have been able to give them assurances which have been entirely satisfactory to them, assurances to the effect that the acceptance of the line in question did not indicate any aggressive tendencies in the direction of the shores of the Mediterranean.

I may say that in giving such an assurance on the part of His Majesty's Government we were careful to add that what we most desired was that there should be no departure from our well-known conventional obligations, among which stands in the first rank the desire that the existing condition of things in the Mediterranean should not be disturbed. That assurance was readily accepted by the Italian Government. If I wanted further evidence to show that our relations at this moment are certainly of a friendly character, I would refer to the fact that we are now receiving support from the Italian Government in the somewhat difficult operations which are proceeding at this moment on the Somaliland coast. An Italian officer accompanies the British force, and Italian ships of war are endeavouring to put a stop to the nefarious traffic in arms which prevails so much in these waters and which so greatly adds to our difficulties. I wish, in conclusion, to express my concurrence with what was said by the noble Earl with regard to the recent understanding which has been arrived at between Italy and France. I feel with him that that is not a matter which need occasion us any misgiving. It has been represented sometimes as an aggravation of our misfortunes that we have driven Italy into the arms of France. I refuse altogether to admit the correctness of that description. On the contrary, I say that we regard it as perfectly natural that Italy should desire to stand well with her powerful neighbour. We regard it as natural, considering her geographical position and her commercial requirements, that she should wish to be on terms of friendship with her French neighbour; and as for us, desiring, as we do, that she should prosper and that her international position should be as secure as possible, we should be the last to complain if by means of such an arrangement as she has arrived at she has improved and strengthened that international position. I shall sum up with

regard to Italy by saying that there is no Power with which we desire to be on more cordial and friendly terms; and, so far as I am aware, there is no Power with which we are on more cordial and friendly terms than we are with Italy at the present moment.

House adjourned at ten minutes
past Six o'clock to Monday
next, a quarter past Four
o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 18th July, 1902.

The House met at Twelve of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON AND HAMP- STEAD (Nos. 1-3) BILL [LORDS].

MR. BULL (Hammersmith) in moving the Instruction standing in his name, said it was contended by the promoters of the Bill that the tunnel would run at such an extreme depth under the Heath that no harm would be done. But that he denied. It seemed to him that public property had just as much right to be protected as private property. Further than that, he thought another route would prove much more advantageous. If the railway were run round Childs Hill a much more important area would be served. It had been alleged that such a route would involve too many curves, but according to his plan it only meant running round the other side of the circle. Besides there would necessarily have to be boring operations on the Heath during the construction of the line, and on its completion ventilating shafts would have to be erected on the Heath. It was urged that no such shafts could be made without the consent of the London County Council, but experience had shown that where, in the interests of public health they were proved to be necessary, sanction was never withheld and when once these operations were commenced there was great danger that the ponds on the Heath—the Leg of Mutton and the Golden Hill—would be completely drained. It was proposed to carry the railway under the Heath simply because it was the shorter and cheaper

route, and against that he protested as an advocate of the preservation of open spaces. He contended that the House would do well to inquire very closely into the whole history of this subject. In the preliminary investigation some of these facts were never gone thoroughly into before Lord Ribblesdale's Committee, and he hoped therefore an opportunity would be afforded of calling evidence to prove that the line ought never to be made under the Heath. He had no objection to its going up to the edge of the Heath; it was right and proper that the public should have easy access to it, but he did object to the Heath itself being interfered with. The only interest he had in this matter was his desire for the preservation of open spaces.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to inquire and report whether the railway proposed to be authorised by the Bill, if constructed on the lines mentioned, will not so seriously injure Hampstead Heath, under which it is to pass, by tapping the wells, draining the soil, destroying the verdure, and interfering with this public place of resort, as to make it inexpedient to pass the Bill; and that the Committee have power to call witnesses and receive evidence on the subject."—(*Mr. Bull.*)

SIR THOMAS WRIGHTSON (St. Pancras, E.) said he did not rise to oppose the Motion, but he would like to point out that the whole of the facts alluded to by the hon. Member were before Lord Ribblesdale's Committee; still he thought it was just as well that the Committee should be placed in full possession of the facts with regard to the present scheme.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) expressed some doubt as to whether the Instruction was in order, the House having passed the Second Reading of the Bill the other night without a division. Of course, the Committee would naturally go into the merits of the scheme, and how, then, was the Instruction in order?

*MR. SPEAKER: I understand that this is a mandatory Instruction to inquire into a matter which no party before the

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Committee will be in a position to bring forward. In the absence of any petition, and if the House desires the matter to be inquired into, it is necessary to have an Instruction. I think, however, that the words "so as to make it inexpedient to pass the Bill" might be left out without affecting the real object of the Instruction at all. It would be a bad precedent to insert such words.

Mr. LOUGH: (Islington, W.) said the Motion appeared to him quite reasonable and in order.

Motion accordingly amended, and again proposed.

Mr. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) quite approved a scheme which would enable a railway to be constructed from the central parts of London, so that millions of people might have an opportunity of enjoying the bracing atmosphere of Hampstead Heath, and regretted that such projects should be persistently opposed by a mere handful of people. He presumed that the hon. Member for Hammersmith represented some vested interest which was always on the lookout to deprive the masses of the people the opportunity of breathing fresh air.

Mr. BULL: As I have said, I do not represent any interest.

Mr. CREMER said, however that might be, the hon. Member had trotted out all the old bogeys about ponds being dried up which had been used in the past. Still he had no objection to these matters being threshed out before the Committee upstairs, for the more evidence they were able to procure in favour of constructing the line, and the more opportunities they were afforded of disproving the fears of property owners, the better pleased he would be; after all, the opposing owners were very few in number; the great body of them were not so selfish as to wish to defeat the scheme.

Question put and agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to inquire and report whether the railway proposed to be authorised by the Bill, if constructed on the lines mentioned, will not seriously

injure Hampstead Heath, under which it is to pass, by tapping the wells, draining the soil, destroying the verdure, and interfering with this public place of resort; and that the Committee have power to call witnesses and receive evidence on the subject.—(Mr. Bull.)

GREAT CENTRAL AND MIDLAND RAILWAYS (SOUTH YORKSHIRE RAILWAYS) BILL,

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL.

MIDLAND RAILWAY (STEAM VESSELS) BILL,

NORWICH CORPORATION (ELECTRICITY, ETC.) BILL.

Lords Amendment considered and agreed to.

BARRY RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

ABERDEEN ACCOUNTANTS ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS],

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS ETC.) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time and passed, without Amendment.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL [LORDS],

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL [LORDS],

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [LORDS],

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

EDUCATIONAL BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL [LORDS],

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL (No. 2) [LORDS].

Read the second time, and committed.

WIGAN CORPORATION BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP N).

Mr. Heywood Johnstone reported from the Committee on Group N. of Private Bills; That for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Tuesday next, the 22nd July.

Report to lie upon the Table.

FLEETWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to: Brynmawr and Western Valleys Railway (Vesting) Bill; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to West Hampshire Water Bill [Lords] without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Warrington; Stretford; Brechin; Rawdon; and Higher Openshaw; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration; From Bisley; Chillenden; Crowthorne; Budock; Hanbury (two); Uffington; Clapham; Bolam; Branstone; Darwen; Clevedon; Albourne; Stoke Newington; and, Henfield; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Two Petitions from Henfield, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Maryhill, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

VACCINATION BILL.

Petition from Padiham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877 (OXFORD).

Copy presented, of Statute made by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, on 20th March, 1902, amending Statute III. (12) (Fellowships held by Professors) of the Statutes of the College [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners for the period from 1st April, 1901 to 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of Ireland for the year 1901. Part II. Civil Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

APPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL CHARTERS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 8th July; Mr. D. A. Thomas]; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES (ENGLAND AND WALES).

Copy presented, of Sixteenth Annual Report of the Inspectors, for 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Scotland—Locomotives on Roads.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): To ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the frequent difficulties which Scottish traction engine owners meet from road authorities and the police, as to damages to roads and precautions for public safety; and whether he will consider the advisability of some alteration of the law in the direction recently adopted in the English Act.

(Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.) The Secretary for Scotland has from time to time received memorials both from locomotive owners and from road authorities suggesting legislation to amend the Locomotives on Roads Acts, and such legislation will receive consideration on the first favourable opportunity.

Naval Gunnery Prizes.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether there are any prizes for the Navy for gunnery and for small arms other than those given by the Admiralty; and whether, seeing that the amount given for prize shooting in 1900-1 was £3,531—which is less than the amount given in 1894-5 by £1,446—while £13,000 is given annually by the War Office for prize shooting for the Army and Militia, it is the intention of the Admiralty to increase the amount; and whether they will

consider the advisability of giving other encouragement for good gunnery, such as badges and extra leave.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold - Forster.) Except for the fact that rifle meetings with prizes are held on some stations there are no prizes for the Navy for gunnery or firing with small arms other than those given by the Admiralty. With regard to the latter part of the hon. Member's Question, I should like to point out that good gunnery is already encouraged in other ways than by money prizes. All gunnery ratings receive special allowances, ranging from 2d. a day in the case of a seaman qualified in gunnery, to 1s. a day in the case of the captain of a turret. Captains of guns, turret guns, or turrets already have special badges, and a badge for the comparatively new rating of second captain of gun is now being designed. It is being carefully considered whether in any further way the supreme importance of proficiency in gunnery can be marked, but the Board do not consider that the question is only one of money, or that competitions for money prizes are necessarily the best way of increasing the general efficiency of the Fleet in gunnery.

**South Eastern and Chatham Railway—
Route to Continent—Excess Luggage.**

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the statutory liability upon the South Eastern and Chatham Railway Company, to convey free of charge 120lbs. of luggage for each first class passenger and 100lbs. for each second class passenger between all stations on its system, will he state whether, in the case of through traffic over this railway to the Continent, the Board of Trade has power to insist that each excess luggage ticket shall distinguish the amount levied for transit between stations on the Company's system and the amount levied for the sea passage and the continental journey.

(Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.) The answer is in the negative.

Irish Butter—Treatment in Transit.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether

he is aware that a resolution was adopted by the Irish Dairy Association at Limerick calling attention to the increasing complaints made by buyers of Irish butter to them as to its treatment in transit, and stating that while similar produce arrives in the markets of Great Britain in good condition from Russia and Australasia, Irish produce is neglected; and whether, under these circumstances, he will direct the Department of Agriculture to make inquiries into the matter in order to remedy this grievance.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) Inquiry has already been made in regard to the methods of dealing with Irish butter in course of transit, and the Department is satisfied that during the past year a considerable improvement has been effected in the treatment of consignments of this substance by the several carrying companies.

South Africa—Claims of Reserve Officers.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state when the claims of the reserve officers, as put forward in answer to a Circular-letter from the War Office on 3rd April, will receive an answer; and when those officers who desire it will be relieved from employment.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary, Brodrick.) The recommendations in response to the Circular-letter have been received, and will shortly be dealt with. The reserve officers will be gradually released as their services can be spared, but it is improbable that, as they are doing the work of regular officers, they can be relieved at once pending the return of the regular troops from South Africa.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

MR. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following members from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures:—Sir John Leng and Sir Walter Thorburn (added in respect of the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Bill; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Edmund Robertson and Mr. James Reid.

Report to lie upon the Table.

LONDON WATER (RE-COMMITTED)
BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.

Clause 1:—

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) had on the Paper an Amendment, to leave out in line 9, the words, "managing and carrying on."

* (12.10.) THE CHAIRMAN ruled the Amendment out of order, on the ground that it was contrary to the principle of the Bill, as it had been passed by the House, which had decided in favour of establishing a Water Board to "manage supply." To cut out the word "manage" would be to destroy the principle of the Bill.

Mr. LOUGH said he would like to point out that they had not so far had an opportunity of obtaining from the Government a definition of what was meant by the word "manage," and this was the only chance they would have of getting such an explanation. It was a very vague term, and very hard to interpret, and surely it would be advisable to allow the discussion at this point; for, after all, it was the most important word in the whole Bill.

* THE CHAIRMAN: No; if the hon. Member were successful in carrying this Amendment, it would destroy the principle of the Bill to which the House assented on the Second Reading. But I think the hon. Member will be able to raise the point he wishes in connection with the following words dealing with the "carrying on" of the undertakings of the water companies.

Mr. LOUGH thereupon moved to amend the first sub-section by leaving out the words "and carrying on." He said he should have thought that the very object of the Bill was to get rid of the undertakings of the companies when the proprietors had been paid for them, and to substitute for them a unified system of

management and control of the London Water Supply. He feared that if the Clause passed as it stood, an obligation would rest upon the Water Board to carry on the water undertakings in more or less the same form as at present. Necessarily the Water Board should have some function, but the exact nature of the function was subject to a good deal of discussion. It had been decided to form the Water Board and to purchase the undertakings of the various companies, and the question now was as to how the work of bringing water to the London area and distributing it was to be carried on. The chief object in forming a Water Board was to buy out the interests of the water companies, but not necessarily to carry on the system of distribution pursued by the companies. The distribution of water by the Board in the way the companies had carried it on was not the usual method sanctioned by Parliament. Throughout the kingdom there were 931 water authorities established for the distribution of water, and of these all but thirteen were municipal authorities, and of the thirteen not one was in the least like this proposed authority. There was no precedent for such a body as was constituted under the Bill taking up the precise work of the companies. It would be better to omit these words, and by subsequent Amendment confine the efforts of the Board to bringing in the water and distributing it to the municipal authorities within the water area of the new authority, leaving to each municipal authority the details of distribution. The second objection he had to raise was, that if the Clause were carried as it stood, the different local authorities within the area would stand on a different footing—there would not be any equality in their functions. He thought few people realised what was comprised in "Water London." There was a population of 6,000,000 to be supplied. The proposed area embraced three great towns with populations exceeding 100,000; three other towns with populations exceeding 90,000, and twenty towns with populations ranging from 30,000 to 70,000. Some of these towns were dealt with in one way, and some in another. While the great majority

were put under the Board, and while the powers of the various water companies were conferred upon the Water Board, several of the towns were given the right to distribute the water, and to do the immediate local work. That was the case with regard to Croydon, Richmond, Enfield, Guildford, Hendon, and Dorking. In each of those towns the Water Board would supply the water in bulk, and the local authorities would distribute it. Would it not be wise, in view of those facts, to there consider the desirability of placing the whole area on an equality? The question would be asked whether, if this Amendment were adopted, and the functions of the old companies were not transferred to the Water Board, but that it was obliged to supply water in the way he had suggested, such a scheme would be practicable. His reply was in the affirmative, for the plan had already been adopted, as he had stated, in various towns within the proposed area. In the case of London there were only eight or ten intakes of water, and it would be perfectly simple and easy to stop the control of the Water Board at the intakes and to allow the distribution to be made by the local authorities. When they were discussing some of those points on a previous occasion, the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill suggested that, on the whole, public opinion in London was in favour of the creation of such a Board as that to do the detailed work, instead of leaving it to the local authorities. He had since looked into that matter. If the right hon. Gentleman meant to point to the Parliamentary representation of the Metropolitan as indicating a view in favour of the local authorities being set aside, and the distribution of water placed in the hands of the Water Board, he thought the inference was very different indeed. The votes cast for the Liberals at the last General Election numbered 159,000, although they only succeeded in carrying eight seats, whereas the Unionist aggregate of 256,000 votes secured fifty-four representatives in the House of Commons. If representation had been proportionate to the voting power the Liberals should have had twenty-four seats instead of eight.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.): Does the hon. Member include the unopposed Returns?

MR. LOUGH said he did. He had no wish to waste the time of the House, but the hon. Gentleman might take it from him that, if the representation of the House were in accordance with the votes cast at the last election, there would be thirty-eight Metropolitan Members on the Ministerial Benches, and twenty-four on the Opposition Benches.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is going a long way from the Amendment under discussion.

MR. LOUGH said he was afraid he had done so, but he was led to digress by the question put to him. What he wished to insist upon was that the expression of opinion in London was very much stronger with regard to this matter than the state of its Parliamentary representation indicated. The real body which represented the views of London on such a question as this was the London County Council, and the great majority of the members of that authority were in favour of the work of distributing the water and carrying on the business of the Water Companies being undertaken by the municipal authorities. A very large question was there raised. He did not think that the precise meaning of the words contained in that and the succeeding line of the Bill had been sufficiently considered, and he did ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it was absolutely necessary to impose on the Water Board the duty of carrying on the work in the same way as the eight companies had carried it on. He thought it was contrary to the spirit of the Government proposal. What was wanted was the amalgamation and not the maintenance of eight separate authorities to distribute the water. In his opinion it would be much better to strike out the words "carry on," and to substitute other words which would make it quite clear that the object of the Bill was to unify and amalgamate the London water system, and to secure a better method than now obtained.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, to leave out the words 'and carrying on.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and carrying on' stand part of the Clause."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (MR. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): There was one remark which I heard fall from the hon. Gentleman with unfeigned pleasure, and I hope he will carry it into full practice as we proceed with debates on this Bill. He has told us that this first Clause contains practically the whole of the Bill, and I therefore trust that when we have got through that Clause there will be little delay in completing the Committee stage. Apart from that remark of the hon. Gentleman, I confess I find myself unable to understand his intentions. His Amendment, no doubt, is a very simple one, but if it were adopted it would have the effect of reducing the Bill to mere nonsense. The duty of the new Board is to purchase and acquire the undertakings of the Water Companies and to carry them on, but what foundation the hon. Gentleman has for his statement that they are to be carried on in precisely the same way as they are managed by the Water Companies I do not know. I can see nothing in the Bill to justify that conclusion. The hon. Gentleman has covered the whole ground of opposition to this Bill. He has dealt with the opinion of London, he has dealt with the new bodies, and he has dealt with the London County Council. But, with the utmost respect, I must decline, on an Amendment to leave out words of this kind, to travel over again the whole ground in connection with the general policy of this Bill, a ground which was covered on the Second Reading, and which will be raised again when we approach the consideration of the actual constitution of the governing body. The omission of these words would leave this Clause in an altogether incomplete condition. The hon. Gentleman is apparently afraid that the new Board will not only be compelled to carry on the water undertakings precisely as now, but that they will not have sufficient power to carry out those reforms which we all desire to see adopted with regard to the administration of London water supply.

I do not think there is any foundation for his fears in the Bill before the Committee. The Board will have all the powers, duties, and obligations now possessed by the Water Companies, and it will be able to treat the whole area as one. It will, therefore, be able to effect such reforms as may be desirable. I submit that Parliament is doing all that is reasonable and just in transferring the undertakings to the new Board. With the powers to be conferred on it, the Board will carry out such reforms as experience suggests, and, if further powers should be required, Parliament will be asked to grant them. I earnestly hope the Committee will reject the Amendment, mainly because if adopted it would deprive the new Board of power, which obviously it should possess, viz., the carrying on the work of the Water Companies.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said the right hon. Gentleman evidently misunderstood the remarks of his hon. friend as to the importance of the first Clause. No doubt it was the most important Clause but it did not follow that the subsequent Clauses did not involve a very large number of important points. The point dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman was not the main point raised by the Amendment, but a comparatively small point which could be dealt with on Clause 3. The Amendment also raised the more important point of the suitability of the proposed new Board to manage and carry on the water supply of London. In every other case in the kingdom the municipal body had been taken as a body capable of dealing with the water supply. The Bill departed from this principle of recognising the municipality, and instituted a body perfectly unknown to our present municipal life. His hon. friend was justified in raising this question, because they wanted to know the reasons which actuated him in this departure and in instituting a grotesque, fantastic, and unworkable body, founded on no principle, and apparently intended to prevent a municipal body from carrying on the work. Even if the new body were a suitable body to purchase they would not be a fit body to manage and carry on, most of their interests being antagonistic. It would not be able to carry on the work anything like as efficiently as it was now performed. Look at the position in which this fantastic

body would be placed in regard to management. The day on which the undertakings were to be taken over had been extended to two and a half years hence. What was the present proposal of the Government? It was that on an appointed day the Water Board should be compelled to take into its service all the officers of the existing water companies. What did that mean? It meant that for two and a half years, covering by far the most important period of its existence, the Water Board would either have to duplicate the staff of the water companies or it would have no officers of its own. He thought his hon. friend was perfectly justified in taking that first opportunity of drawing attention to the powers to be conferred on this Board, especially as the Committee was now in a position to consider the Bill on its merits in the light of the evidence which had been published.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.) said this was a most unbusinesslike discussion of an unbusinesslike Amendment. They were being asked to constitute a Water Board and not to allow it to carry out the objects for which it was to be brought into existence. The proper time to discuss the question whether the new Board was or was not fantastic was when the Clause respecting the constitution of the Board was reached. It was reducing the Clause to nonsense to propose that a Board should not manage and carry on a business which they were created in order to acquire and carry on.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said the hon. Member who spoke of the unbusinesslike discussion of an unbusinesslike Amendment should have

rounded off his statement by adding the words "touching an unbusinesslike Bill." The right hon. Gentleman had declared that the Amendment would reduce the Bill to mere nonsense. But that would be a gratuitous effort on their part, for the fact was it had been reduced to nonsense already by the insistence of the Government on the form of the Water Board. Surely before they agreed to conferring on the Board the duty of purchasing, managing, and carrying on the undertakings of the various water companies, they had a right to know something about the complexion and size of the Board. If the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that the Committee would have a free hand in considering the constitution of the Board, the passing of the Bill would be facilitated. All they wanted to do was to create a workable authority. They were successful upstairs until the Government and the Cabinet hustled the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! That has nothing to do with this Amendment.

Dr. MACNAMARA said that so long as the Government adhered to the Board as constituted by the Bill he would have to oppose the measure tooth and nail. All he wanted was that the Committee should have a perfectly free hand to constitute the Board.

(12.58.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 99; Noes, 70. (Division List No. 303.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.

Cavendish, V. C. W. (D'rbyshire)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Crost, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Croesley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Fisher, William Hayes

Flower, Ernest
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Groves, James Grimble
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawson, John Grant
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lowther, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 McCrae, George
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Montagu, G. (Huntington)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Percy, Earl
 Plummer, Walter R.

Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Russell, T. W.
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford.
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
 Thornton, Percy M.

Tomlinson, Wm. Edw. Murray
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
 Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
 Boland, John
 Brigg, John
 Burke, E. Haviland.
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Cameron, Robert
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cremer, William Randal
 Delany, William
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Elibank, Master of
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Furness, Sir Christopher
 Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
 Grant, Corrie

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennedy, Patrick James
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Leng, Sir John
 London, W.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Mooney, John J.
 Murphy, John
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan Gower)
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Lough and Dr. Mac-
 namara.

The next Amendment on the Paper, standing in the name of Captain Norton (Newington, W.), was—

“To insert after ‘on’ in line 9 of Clause 1, the words ‘until the transference is completed.’”

*THE CHAIRMAN said he did not see any meaning in the Amendment.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said that Clauses 2 and 3 of the Bill referred to the transfer of the undertakings of the water companies to the Water Board. If there was a transfer, the Water Board might be in a position to carry on separately the duties of the eight water companies for a period of nearly two and a half years. Therefore, it was a matter of great importance that words should be added to make it

perfectly clear that the Board was only to carry on these separate undertakings until the period when the whole would be amalgamated and carried on as one concern.

*THE CHAIRMAN: It seems to me that the Committee has already decided that the Water Board which is to be established is to acquire by purchase and carry on all these undertakings. The hon. Member's Amendment says that the Board shall only do that “until the transference is completed.”

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said there was some difference between the words “managing” and “carrying on.” What some hon. Members on this side thought was

that "management" meant general control of the undertakings; while "carrying on" referred to the carrying on of the separate undertakings of the companies.

MR. LOUGH said the particular words of the Amendment referred to what was to be done with the separate undertakings.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON asked the President of the Local Government Board to give definitions of what was meant by "management" and "carrying on." There must be some reason for having these words in the Clause.

CAPTAIN NORTON: May I be permitted to move the Amendment formally, in order to obtain an explanation from the right hon. Gentleman?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I confess I cannot understand the Amendment in the least. I do not know whether the hon. Member can throw any fresh light upon it, but so far as I do understand it, it appears to be nonsense, and if it is nonsense it would be out of order.

MR. LOUGH said he would move the Amendment of which he had given notice, to insert after "on" the words "until the purchase is completed." After the speech which the President of the Local Government Board made half-an-hour ago, he thought it was necessary to insert some words like these, though he did not say these exact words. The right hon. Gentleman said that there could be no intention to throw the obligation on the Water Board to carry on indefinitely the eight separate undertakings as they stood at present. The whole Bill read as if that was the intention of the Government. The Board was to carry on each particular work. He found the word "each" in Clause 3, where it was stated that the Water Board should hold the undertaking of "each" Metropolitan Water Company, and be subject to all the duties and obligations of the company. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that they ought not to keep open six or seven different offices.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 9, after the word 'on' to insert the words 'until the purchase is completed.'"—(Mr. Lough.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. WALTER LONG said he was sure the hon. Gentleman did not want to absolutely waste the time of the Committee. There was nothing in this Clause or in Clause 3 which was capable of the construction which the hon. Gentleman placed upon it. There was nothing about separate accounts or separate offices. The duty was imposed on the Water Board to do the work of the companies and to carry on their undertakings. It was quite obvious that it would be impossible for all the transfers to take place at the same time or on the same day; but as soon as all the undertakings were in possession of the Board, there was nothing in this Clause or in Clause 3 to prevent the Board carrying them on as a general concern, subject to the powers given under various Acts of Parliament.

MR. LOUGH said he thought that that settled the matter.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think the Amendment ought really to be pressed. It would limit the action of the Board until such time as the purchase was completed. That would be to make nonsense, and certainly it would destroy the principle of the Bill.

MR. LOUGH said he quite saw that, and begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 9, after the second word 'the' to insert the word 'water'."

This was, he said, only a drafting Amendment, but he thought it was necessary, in order to include the Staines Reservoirs Joint Committee.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Amendment was quite unnecessary, as the Staines Joint Committee was included in the first schedule.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that the Staines Joint Committee would have to go to arbitration in regard to their reservoirs, and he thought it was a

dangerous thing that it should be treated as a separate question of arbitration. The arbitrators might be inclined to think that the House had instructed them to deal with the Staines reservoirs as a going concern.

MR. WALTER LONG said that that was a question that was dealt with by Clause 10.

Amendment negatived.

MR. LOUGH said the next Amendment he had to move was—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 12, after 'water, to insert 'in bulk to the local authorities.'"

This question, he said, had been a good deal discussed upstairs, and the Chairman of the Surrey County Council gave evidence with regard to it. That County Council had executed an agreement with the London County Council that if the latter obtained their Bill they would secure severance. The Chairman of the Kent County Council also gave evidence in regard to the question, and stated that the local authorities throughout Kent wished for a supply of water in bulk.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Committee had already decided that the duty of the new Board was not to supply water in bulk, but to distribute it within the area described in the second schedule.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he thought the Amendment would be a limitation of what had already been passed.

MR. LOUGH said he was quite sure that the supply of water in bulk to the local authorities would be a much better system to adopt than that proposed by the Bill. He would point out to the right hon. Gentleman that the Bill only authorised the Water Board to carry on the duties of the Water Companies, but that did not shut out the case of supplying water in bulk, because some of the Companies already supplied water in bulk. The duty which the Water Board ought to perform should be to secure the water, filter it, and then supply in bulk the water to all the local authorities, leaving the latter to settle their local difficulties within their own areas. Otherwise, the streets of these local

authorities might be pulled up by the Water Board, and the local authorities would be interfered with in hundreds of ways.

MR. WALTER LONG said he could not possibly accept the Amendment, because it would be contrary to the scope of the whole measure. The hon. Gentleman had said that his proposal had been discussed by the Committee upstairs; but it also had formed the subject of very careful examination by the Royal Commission, which condemned it, in paragraph 136 of their Report, as being not only inconvenient, but expensive. If the plan of supplying water in bulk were adopted, it would mean, in the western areas, the entire re-construction of the existing mains, would involve an enormous expenditure, and obviously would deprive the new authorities of any opportunity of raising sufficient revenue to do the very work which the hon. Gentleman said they ought to do, viz., to reduce the cost of water to the rate-payers.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he thought the right hon. Gentleman had misunderstood the Amendment, for he had argued as if it meant severance, and not the supply of water in bulk. Severance no doubt would involve the construction of new mains. The County Councils in the outside areas would have preferred severance, and they gave evidence to that effect; but the majority of them would rather have water supplied in bulk than come under the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman. They felt that this new body would be of such a character, and London would have such a monopoly of influence, that they would be practically impotent to control their water supply. The system of supplying water in bulk had worked successfully in other parts of the country. He thought that under the plan in the Bill a great deal of the work of the Water Board would be hampered by conflicting interests. He did not think it was quite fair that this matter should be treated, and that they should be asked to settle it, as if it were a totally different matter. He hoped his hon. friend would go to a division, as it was a matter of material importance. The large amount of evidence brought before the Committee

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

fully justified the proposal made, and what the Committee felt was that if it was accepted, this Amendment would enable these authorities, if they so desired, to have their water supplied in bulk. It would in no way destroy the Water Board that was created by this Bill, but would, on the contrary, make it more compact, and get rid of those difficulties which must occur between the inside and outside authorities, and make it more convenient for them to deal with the water interests in their own localities in their own way. He thought it was rather hard that districts like Halford should not be allowed to deal with their water as they desired. There was no principle involved, and he thought the outside authorities ought to have an option in the matter, and ought to be allowed to come upon the Board in the way in which he had suggested.

MR. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse) expressed the opinion that if this Amendment were accepted the Clause would be reduced to absolute nonsense. If this Amendment were carried, the powers of the new Water Board would be limited to supplying water in bulk and in no other way. It would compel everybody to take water in bulk, and in his opinion it was a most ridiculous proposition.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) agreed that if the Amendment were accepted it would render it compulsory for the Water Board to distribute to all the areas within the schedule water in bulk. It might be a desirable thing that some of these authorities should take their water in bulk, but if they did, it was desirable that it should be regulated in some way. This Amendment, therefore, would go further than his hon. friend desired or the hon. Member beside him advocated. This subject was of great importance and should not, it seemed to him, be raised by an Amendment of this kind, but rather by means of a separate Clause in the Bill.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) asked what was meant exactly by the words "generally for the purposes of supplying water." The preliminary words gave the Water Board

all the power of the companies, and it seemed to him that those words, unless qualified, would cover the supply of water in bulk.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether the Bill provided that, if a local authority so desired, it should be permitted to have its water supplied in bulk by the Water Board.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Bill did not make it compulsory on the Water Board to supply any local authority in bulk. His answer to the hon. Member was, therefore, in the negative.

DR. MACNAMARA said that in that case he would move to amend the Amendment by adding some words to it. He begged to move after the word "authority" to insert "if so required."

MR. WALTER LONG said he only agreed to the insertion of these words in order that the whole Amendment, when put, might be rejected.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) thought the Amendment would materially assist not only the Water Board but the local authorities to carry out their undertakings. It was desirable, in his opinion, that in this matter there should be some decentralisation, and the local authorities should be allowed to take water in bulk if they desired so to do. It was, he thought, a step in the right direction. It was the right of every locality to supply its own people with water if it wished to, and he had always striven to prevent the introduction into these various local areas of foreign influence. All local areas should be self-contained, and one of the most valuable privileges they had was the distribution of their own water. It might be suggested that it would deprive the Water Board of a certain amount of profit, but that could not be so, because as the outside areas developed, more water would be required. He urged in the interest of local government that this Amendment as amended should be looked on with favour by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) said the Amendment would so alter the words of the Clause as left by the Committee that it would practically destroy it. The Amendment, if adopted, would deprive the Water Board of a considerable proportion of the revenue of their undertaking. The result would be that the Metropolitan Water Board would become a sort of wholesale water broker for the purpose of distributing wholesale lumps of water to the local authorities, who would make a profit on it. He also called attention to the drafting of the Amendment.

SIR ROBERT REID pointed out that the Amendment as it now stood raised the question of whether or not there ought to be an opportunity, under proper conditions and safeguards, given to local authorities to take water in bulk. He had ventured before to suggest that this Amendment was not the proper way to deal with that question, because it could not be fenced round with the necessary safeguards. He now wished to make an appeal to the right hon. Gentleman. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill did not wish to prevent legitimate business questions being discussed. The point raised by this Amendment was of great importance, and it seemed to him that it might be a great convenience, not only to the local authority, but also to the central Board itself, that water in some districts should be taken in bulk. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give the Committee reason to anticipate that he would fairly consider any proposal put forward with proper safeguards.

MR. WALTER LONG said that as he was advised there was nothing in the Bill to prohibit the new authority from entering into an agreement with a local authority if it was desirable to do so to supply water in bulk, except that they would be under a statutory obligation to supply the district. He would, however, immediately respond to the appeal of the hon. and learned Gentleman. He would certainly give such a clause as he suggested the consideration he asked for.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman had at last seen that there was material substance in the Amendment.

MR. WATER LONG : I did not say so. The hon. and learned Gentleman made an entirely different proposition.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was glad the right hon. Gentleman had given an assurance to favourably consider a Clause upon this point when brought in. He, however, desired to point out that with regard to some of the outside areas there was already power given by Clauses 13 and 14 to supply them with water in bulk. He therefore did not see how any principle was affected by the Amendment.

CAPTAIN NORTON said the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to meet the Committee so far that he had consented to consider a new clause, which would have for its object the giving of such powers to the Water Board as would enable it to give water in bulk to such authorities as desired it. The Water Board would be, under certain circumstances, as the hon. Member for Lynn Regis had suggested, a wholesale water broker. It must be remembered that it was not only the question of water that was affected by this Amendment, but also sanitation, which was largely a question of water; and it certainly was not unreasonable to suggest that such localities as desired it should have the distribution of their own water.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn [2.0].

(2.30.) MR. CORRIE GRANT moved to leave out in Clause 1, lines 13 and 14, the words "subject to such alterations therein as may be made by or under this Act." It seemed to him that the words were quite unnecessary.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was proposed to make certain changes with regard to districts now supplied by the water companies. The words proposed to be left out were necessary in order to make it perfectly clear that certain places mentioned in other clauses of the Bill were excluded from the operation of the Bill.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LOUGH moved—

"In page 1, lines 14 and 15, leave out '(which area is in this Act referred to as the limits of supply.)'"

He said there were provisions in the Bill which might vary the limits of supply. Some places might go out and others might possibly be added. He did not see the good of the parentheses at all.

THE SECRETARY OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said the expression "limits of supply" was in the Bill, and it was desirable to have some definition of what was meant by that.

Amendment negatived.

MR. CORRIE GRANT moved the following Amendment, standing in the name of the hon. Member for the Stroud Division of Gloucestershire—

"In page 1, line 15, after the word 'supply,' to insert 'Provided that nothing in this Act shall prejudice any future application that may be made to Parliament on behalf of any County or District Council for withdrawing the whole or any part of the area under its control from the said limits of supply.'"

MR. WALTER LONG said this proviso was unnecessary, because it must be obvious that whatever power Parliament possessed now to change the existing condition of things, it would possess in future to change the condition of things brought into operation by this Bill.

Amendment negatived.

DR. MACNAMARA moved an Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Battersea, to leave out Sub-section 3. He was opposed to the Sub-section, because he was at variance with the proposal contained in it. There was no precedent for the scheme, either in regard to size or constitution, and it was grotesque and unworkable in itself. He was opposed to it, too, because it offended against all the principles of financial propriety. The Board, as proposed, not only represented the counties, but also the smaller areas within the counties. From the point of view of finance, there was absolutely no ground for the inclusion of these smaller areas, which were already represented through their county.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 19, to leave out sub-section (3).—(Dr. Macnamara.)"

Question proposed, "That the words 'Subject to the provisions of this Act the Water Board shall consist of' stand part of the Clause."

SIR ROBERT REID suggested that the Amendment should be put in such a way as not to oust subsequent Amendments.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not complain of the Amendment, though it appeared to be a little inconvenient. All the arguments he should desire to use in answer to the objections the hon. Member had raised were arguments he must address to the Committee when they came to the Amendment which definitely raised the question of the number and constitution of the new Board. It was quite obvious that a sub-section of some kind must find a place in the Clause. If there was to be a Board it must be constituted in some shape or form; and therefore, if they omitted the whole of the sub-section, the Bill would be left in a very incomplete form.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON admitted that there was a great deal of force in what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman, but what they were anxious to do was to raise the question of the introduction of the Borough Councils into the constitution of the Board, a proposal to which they had great objections. It was fairer to them and to the Committee that the discussion should take place on this Clause rather than on the Schedule.

MR. WALTER LONG said the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for North Wilts definitely raised the question of the choice between the county constitution and the constitution in the Bill.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he was sure the right hon. Gentleman would be the first to distinguish between the question of size and that of constitution.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said their objection to Sub-section 3 was that it would fix the number of the Board before they knew what its constitution was to be. It was not desirable to fix the number before the Committee had decided what bodies were to be represented on the Board.

MR. LOUGH expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would promise to leave the question of the Members of the Board to the Committee for decision. A promise to do this would be received with a great deal of satisfaction, and would do something to facilitate the progress of the Bill.

MR. WALTER LONG said the two questions of the number on the Board and of its precise constitution were quite distinct. The hon. Gentleman opposite had asked that the Government whips should not tell when they came to decide the constitution of the new authority. He had often heard this appeal made to Ministers, and, as a rule, he had not the smallest sympathy with it, as it was generally made with regard to some vital principle which had the support of the supporters of the Government. He was convinced that if the question were left to the decision of the Committee in the open form, the result would not vary in any degree from that which would follow in the ordinary course. There was the solid fact to keep in view, that out of sixty-three Members for London, fifty-five had supported these proposals. Therefore, he failed to understand why Members, who did not represent London or Metropolitan constituencies, should believe that they could convince London against itself. But, however that might be, he could not assent to the proposal. The scheme of the Government had been carefully considered; it had the support of the great majority of the representatives of the Metropolis and of the Metropolitan constituencies, and when the time came he would be

prepared to defend it. He hoped the Committee would be allowed to pass on to the consideration of the next Amendment which would raise the first question in a definite form.

SIR ROBERT REID said the point they had now to consider was how best to discuss these matters. There were two questions which were inextricably bound up with one another. One referred to the number and the other to the constitution of the Board, and the decision on the one must affect the other.

DR. MACNAMARA said he was sorry to hear the statement of the right hon. Gentleman as, on the Second Reading, he had said that he would leave the matter to the House.

MR. WALTER LONG said the hon. Gentleman had misunderstood him. There were two distinct questions. As to the actual number of the Board, he still held the view that proposals made for the reduction of the number, which were consistent with the principle underlying the constitution of the Board, might be left to the House. But that did not apply to the question of the principle of the representation of the Metropolitan boroughs.

DR. MACNAMARA said he felt bound to take this opportunity of dividing the Committee after the statement of the right hon. Gentleman.

(2.58.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 138; Noes, 101. (Division List No. 304.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allhusen, Augustus Harry Eden
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.

Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse

Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Doughty, George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Fisher, William Hayes

FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flower, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Groves, James Grumble
Gunter, Sir Robert
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midd'x
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erakine
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.

M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J. (Walthamst'w
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute
Myers, William Henry
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretzman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Russell, T. W.
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)

Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand).
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester).
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. Taunt'n)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton and Lyne
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Bampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayden, John Patrick

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, Dav. Brynmor (Swansea
Jordon, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Patrick James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Jos. F. (Accrington)
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Mooney, John J.
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden).
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee).
Roe, Sir Thomas
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Dr. Macnamara and Mr.
Lough.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said | important Amendments on the Bill
the Amendment he now rose to | that they had to discuss. He was
move was really one of the most | glad to hear what had fallen from the

right hon. Gentleman, the President of the Local Government Board, that, though unfortunately he did not see his way to surrender on this question, he would leave the constitution of the Board an open question, and allow the House to exercise its judgment as to the size of the Board. In what he desired to say to the Committee he wished to separate the question of the size of the Board from its constitution. He confessed he very much regretted the attitude which the right hon. Gentleman had taken up in regard to the matter within the last few months. This was a very great question affecting all the ratepayers and consumers of water in London; and he thought that the matter ought to have been settled by some more or less general agreement. He should be very glad to give up his preconceived opinions, perhaps even prejudices, in order to make a broad and strong and workable body, and he was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman had not so far, apparently, been able to come to any arrangement. What they had got to find out from the right hon. Gentleman was, on what basis he had fixed the number of members for the Board. So far as he could see, it was a purely arbitrary figure. Neither in the House on the Second Reading of the Bill, nor in the evidence before the Committee upstairs, was there any basis on which this particular number had been fixed. The proposal that he had ventured to make to the Committee was in the nature of a compromise. That the London County Council should be the authority was obviously out of the question at the present moment; but it was equally clear that the proposal of the Government was not acceptable to the House. He therefore submitted a compromise which might very well meet the views of both sides of the House. He did not altogether agree with it, but he would accept it as a working arrangement. Substantially the proposal of the Committee was that the constitution of the Board should be on a county basis, and that the numbers should be materially reduced. That was agreed to by the Committee by the weight of the evidence brought before them. It was an impartial Committee, and the Government had a majority

upon it, yet by a majority of six to three they adopted the proposal that he submitted that afternoon. Everyone would agree that what was wanted was a business-like body which would carry on their business with efficiency and despatch; and unless they got such a body as that, it would be a very serious matter for the ratepayers in reference to the price which they would have to pay to the Water Companies, and also in regard to the manner in which the business of the Water Board would be carried on afterwards. He himself would rather go on with the existing system of eight Water Companies, which managed their business very well, than that an unbusiness-like Board, such as that proposed in the subsection, should be substituted for them. What had been done before was in favour of the compromise now proposed. In 1880, when the first Water Board was proposed by Lord Cross, then hon. Secretary, the number suggested was twenty-one. And the present Government, of which the right hon. Gentleman was a Member, at the beginning of their career proposed that the number should be thirty. Then there was the Royal Commission, presided over by Lord Landaff, which recommended that the number on the Board should not exceed thirty, and they based their recommendation on the knowledge they had acquired of the duties which would be required of this particular body. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the introduction of the Metropolitan Borough Councils had altered the circumstances. But he would point out that the hon. Member for Tewkesbury, who was a Member of the Landaff Commission, said he was quite certain that they would not have created a body consisting of sixty-seven Members. In no other part of the country, in great cities like Liverpool and Birmingham, the Board or Committee to manage the water supply did not consist in numbers anything like approaching those proposed by the Bill. That was the position when the right hon. Gentleman produced this Bill, and it ought to have indicated to him that the Board should be a small one, of working proportions. What they wanted from the right hon. Gentleman was some real arguments to show that a

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

body of seventy-three Members would be a workable, homogeneous, and business-like Board. The right hon. Gentleman in his Second Reading speech, stated that the largeness of the Board was to a great extent founded on the opinion of experts. But he thought that it was hardly treating the House fairly not to call the evidence of these experts in reference to this particular point. There was no such evidence laid before the Joint Committee. On the other hand, there was evidence of the experts who controlled the water supply of Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Gloucester, and elsewhere, that the proposed body was far too large, and that the number should be thirty or under. He ventured to point out to the Committee that the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman had met with no support from any quarter—from the Royal Commission, from the Joint Committee, or elsewhere. In the first place, the Moderate Members of the London County Council had one and all said that they were opposed to the proposal of the Government. Again, during the two or three debates in this House, every Member who spoke, with the exception of the Member for Limehouse, drew attention to this matter as the real blot on the Bill, and very strongly objected to the size of the body. Then his hon. friend the Member for the Strand Division, who was Chairman of the Committee of London Unionist Members, on the First Reading of the Bill, implied that the Board was of a rather unwieldy size, and that statement was cheered by hon. Members on his own side of the House. Then, the hon. Member for Chelsea, who had great experience in these matters, said that there were certain changes he should like to see in the constitution of the Board, and that he should prefer that the numbers should be reduced. The hon. Members or South Islington, East Islington, and Tewkesbury, and every speaker on the Ministerial side of the House condemned this part of the Bill. As to the Joint Committee, it appeared from their Report that the majority of that Committee were convinced by the evidence before them, and had by a majority thrown over the proposal in the Bill, and adopted that which he now submitted to the Committee. It was true that, for

some reason, they did not adhere to that view, but they had never affirmed the schedule in the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman, through his Under Secretary, stated that when the Bill went into Committee, while other matters were matters of principle, this question of numbers should go to the Committee as an open question, and the right hon. Gentleman himself had affirmed that. Why should not the right hon. Gentleman adopt the same attitude now?

MR. WALTER LONG said the right hon. Gentleman had misunderstood him. What he said was that, while he might agree to a reduction in the number of the Board, he adhered to the view that that reduction should not involve the exclusion of the representation of the Metropolitan Boroughs.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that the whole question turned on the number of the Board. This was a purely administrative body, and it was important, especially in regard to the question of purchase, that it should be a strong, homogeneous body with some purpose in their mind, and able to work together. It was quite clear however, that in the large and unwieldy body proposed, they would not secure such a body as that. They would not get that individual responsibility on the part of the members by which alone the duties imposed upon them could be properly discharged. A spirit of "What's everybody's business is nobody's business," would prevail. The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman were to be paid officials; and it was quite certain that practically the whole business of the Board would get into their hands and into the hands of the other paid officials. Unfortunately, they in London had had experience of that in the past. It was largely that which had caused the old Metropolitan Board of Works to be so inefficient, and had caused so much dissatisfaction to the ratepayers. The Under Secretary argued that the numbers were not too large, because the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and the London County Council had equal or larger numbers. [AN HON. MEMBER: And the Liverpool Corporation.] He did not know that anybody who was a member of the London County

Council, would say that the numbers of that Corporation were too large for the work they had to do. As to the Metropolitan Asylums Board, they had a very large number of Boards of Guardians necessarily represented on it; and, as regarded the Liverpool Corporation, it should be remembered that they had to manage all the city's affairs, beside the water supply. In his opinion, if the London County Council had been allowed to control the water supply, they would have been able to handle it easily, with the number of members at their disposal. The Committee must remember that this was a going concern; that it was not the creation of a large number of new concerns; and he would appeal to any Water Company director whether, supposing the Water Companies had themselves agreed to amalgamate into one company, the Board of Directors would not have been far fewer than the Board now proposed by the Bill. The right hon. Gentleman said that he wanted to bring on the Board, representatives of the Metropolitan Borough Councils, but the impression left on the minds of some of them by his speech on the First Reading of the Bill, and the evidence given before the Joint Committee, was that the right hon. Gentleman had got his numbers first, and then afterwards looked about to see what authorities should be represented on the Board. No one would assert that the Board would be a directly representative body. It would, in any case, be a secondary body; and, in part of its composition, it would be non-representative. The essence of the matter was of whether the purchase of the Water Companies would be a success or a failure. It would not be against the principle of the Bill if the Borough Councils were amalgamated in order to reduce the number of members. The Amendment proposed thirty-five; but that was not a figure in which he wished to pin his vote or his opinion. Looking at the body as a whole, and at the different authorities from which it would come, he believed it would be unworkable, inefficient and expensive; and the Amendment merely expressed that view without pinning the Committee to thirty-five members.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, after 'of' to insert 'thirty-five members including.'"—(*Mr. Buxton.*)

Mr. Sydney Buxton.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*(3.40.) *SIR EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter)* said it might be convenient at that stage for the Committee to hear the views of a member of the Joint Committee. He did not claim to speak in behalf of his colleagues; nor could he speak with the authority of an expert; but he claimed to have brought to the consideration of the evidence submitted to the Joint Committee an impartial mind, and approached the subject without prejudice. The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken stated that the sole functions of the new Board would be administrative. It appeared to him, however, that it would also have a representative character; and if the smaller number had advantages from the point of view of administration, the larger number certainly had merits from the point of view of being more directly representative of the water consumers. With regard to the proposal to reduce the number to thirty-five, including the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman, he submitted that for the purposes of administration there was essentially little or no difference between a Board of seventy and a Board of thirty-five. If the hon. Gentleman had the courage of his convictions he should have suggested, not a Board of thirty-five, but a Board of ten, twelve, or, at the outside, fifteen members.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he submitted his Amendment, not because he thought it the best solution, but because it afforded a means of arriving at a compromise.

* *SIR EDGAR VINCENT* said that the suggested compromise was in reality no compromise. The real difference was between a Board of a large number and of representative character, and a small Board of ten, twelve, or fifteen members, which should be mainly, if not exclusively, administrative. He admitted that for purposes of administration a small body would be more convenient; but any one who had experience of administration of that character would admit that large bodies did their work very largely through Committees, and were guided to a large extent by

their Chairmen and Vice Chairmen, and this applied both to a Board of seventy and to one of thirty-five. The Joint Committee had before it a large amount of evidence with reference to the Water Board. A point which he thought impressed the Joint Committee very much was that the previous proposal of Lord Llandaff's Committee, that the Board should consist of a small number of members, had met with the most energetic opposition from the London County Council. When the proposal was put forward, the London County Council, which was to a great extent the strongest opponent of the present scheme, said it was altogether opposed to a Board consisting solely of the salaried nominees of a Government Department. Mr. McKinnon Wood had said that, although he had been right through the London County Council, he had been unable to obtain any support whatever for such a proposal. Now, when his right hon. friend brought forward a proposal of an opposite character, it was met with precisely the same opposition. The Joint Committee received evidence from gentlemen connected with the water administration in the large provincial cities and towns in England. He believed that in no case in which these gentlemen had any experience did the population exceed 800,000 or 900,000, whereas the Bill had to deal with Water London with a population of between 5,000,000 or 6,000,000. There was, he submitted, no analogy between the cases. Then, again, the disparity between the area to be served in London, and the area served in a provincial city, was equally great. Further, he believed that the wants of the different sections of Water London were more diverse than were the requirements of districts in provincial cities. Then as to the alternative which was termed the county basis, all the other counties concerned were more afraid of one result than of any other; namely, that they would be left alone to deal with the question in conjunction with the London County Council. There was absolute unity of opinion on that subject. The counties said in effect that if they were handed over to the London County Council the argument would certainly be brought

forward that representation should be allotted in proportion to population; and on that basis the Board would be constituted in a manner which would give the London County Council an enormous predominance. It had been said that the representatives of the various counties were altogether opposed to the scheme proposed by his right hon. friend. He confessed that, although the Joint Committee did receive evidence from them that they desired to reserve the right of subsequent severance, there could be no doubt whatever that they expressed a decided preference for the present scheme over any other which had been mooted. It appeared to him to be incumbent on those who opposed the present proposal, not merely to find defects in it, but also to bring forward a practical scheme, which would receive an equal amount of public support from the various bodies interested. The impression he gained from the evidence was that the present proposal was an ingenious attempt to solve a most difficult problem. He felt convinced that the Water Board when established would carry through its work efficiently; that it would deal with the most difficult problem of the transfer of the water undertakings with full regard to the rights and interests of the ratepayers of London, and that by unity of authority the whole problem of the water supply of such an enormous population as that of Water London would be dealt with with a thoroughness and comprehensiveness impossible under present circumstances.

* Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said, speaking also as a member of the Joint Committee, that the hon. Gentleman who had last addressed the Committee had not established a case as to why the Board should consist of seventy-three members. What the hon. Gentleman had said was more by way of criticism of a smaller body; and he gave no reason whatever in support of the larger number. He thought the hon. Gentleman put the point with regard to the London County Council rather unfairly—quite unintentionally, he had no doubt. He said that the London County Council objected to the

proposal of Lord Llandaff's Committee that the Board should consist of thirty members. But why? Because the Board was to be a non-representative body. He believed that the President of the Local Government Board had started altogether on a wrong basis. He was quite sure the right hon. Gentleman did not put before himself the question as to the constitution of the body which would be best calculated to discharge the duties to be entrusted to it, most efficiently. He said that with some authority, because Mr. Fitzgerald, Counsel for the Promoters, admitted that the size of the Board should necessarily be large, not for the purpose of discharging its duties, but in order to give representation to the Metropolitan Boroughs. Mr. Fitzgerald was speaking of the proposal of Lord Cross that the Board should consist of twenty-one members; of Lord James that it should consist of thirty members; and of Lord Llandaff that it should consist of thirty members; and he said that the main difference was that at the time of these proposals the Metropolitan Boroughs were not in existence; and that it was thought desirable that they should be represented on the Water Board. Mr. Fitzgerald added that if representation were given to the Metropolitan Boroughs, similar representation should be given to the urban districts, with the result that the number of members would be doubled. He would show presently that there was no reason whatever why the Metropolitan Boroughs should be given any representation at all. He would quote evidence given before the Joint Committee in support of that view. The Joint Committee had evidence from Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, and Glasgow. The representative of Manchester said (Question 3589) that sixty-nine members were totally unnecessary. The representative of Liverpool said (Question 3649) that a Board of about thirty would be quite sufficient. The representative of Glasgow said (Question 3735) that he did not see any difficulty in the undertakings being amalgamated under a body of, say, thirty members. He wished to controvert the proposition of the hon. Member for Exeter that as the population increased the Board

should also necessarily increase. He thought that that was a complete fallacy. A large undertaking, so far as the administrative management was concerned, could be managed as easily as a small undertaking. It was said that a large Board would be required, because of the many Committees which would be necessary to manage the various parts of the undertaking. He spoke on that matter with some little experience, having served for nine years on the Edinburgh and District Water Trust; and though it could not compare with the London Water Scheme, the principle he laid down applied, namely, that a Board need not increase with the increase of population. If the Board were divided into three Committees—law, works, and finance—a body of thirty would provide sufficient members to serve on them. He should like the President of the Local Government Board to consider seriously—because they all desired that the question should be settled on the best possible basis—whether it was necessary that the Board should be over-weighted with representatives of the Borough Councils. They did not form a necessary element in the constitution of the Water Board. Why? They did not want to give representation to the Borough Councils as Borough Councils, but because they represented the water consumers. But the water consumers would be represented by the London County Council. He challenged any hon. Member, who had read the evidence, to controvert that statement. The duplication of representation which was now proposed was not only unprecedented, but altogether unwarranted. The representation should be given to either the London County Council or to the Borough Councils, but not to both. If both were to be represented on the Board, it would not be conducive to the proper transaction of business, and would be a distracting element, as discussions might arise, not on the merits of the question before the Board, but on the different interests of the London County Council and the Borough Councils. There never was a Bill considered with less bias, either in one direction or the other, by any committee, than the present Bill; the only desire of the Joint Committee being to secure a Board which could most

Mr. McCrae.

efficiently discharge the duties to be entrusted to it. He thought the Joint Committee was entitled to protest, as he personally did protest, against the conduct of the case by the promoters of the Bill. They practically refused to present evidence to the Joint Committee until they were challenged to produce it in the most extraordinary way by the Chairman.

MR. WALTER LONG said it was the first time he had heard that. He should like chapter and verse for it.

* MR. McCRAE said he was prepared to give it. If the right hon. Gentleman would turn to page 42 of the evidence, he would find that the Chairman said—

“The promoters have the opportunity, if they want to call witnesses. I do not think it necessary for me to coerce them into it. I never had such a task put upon me before.”

MR. WALTER LONG said he was not disputing for a moment the hon. Gentleman's statement. It was the first time throughout the controversy that the statement had been made that the promoters of the Bill—that was the Local Government Board—refused to produce evidence. He wanted the definite refusal of the promoters to produce evidence.

*MR. McCRAE said that after controversy not only with the Chairman but with opposing counsel, the promoters did submit evidence, but it was practically on compulsion.

MR. WALTER LONG asked when did the promoters refuse. The hon. Gentleman made a definite statement that the promoters of the Bill—that was the Government Board—declined to produce evidence. The hon. Gentleman's words were perfectly clear and unmistakeable. He was not contesting the hon. Gentleman's statement. He only said it was the first time he had heard it; and he was only asking the hon. Gentleman to produce evidence of it.

*MR. McCRAE said that what he had read justified the statement. If the right hon. Gentleman would refer to page 29 of the Blue-book he would see that Mr. Fitzgerald stated that from the nature of the case the Local Government Board could not be expected to go into evidence, and all he proposed to do was to put in two witnesses.

MR. WALTER LONG said the hon. Gentleman would be the last person in this House who would desire to misrepresent counsel or political opponents on a question of this kind. What he meant was that it was not desirable that the hon. Gentleman should put his contention in a form which was distasteful to the Government. The whole contention was an argument addressed by the learned counsel on the question of procedure. On such a question it would not be necessary to offer evidence, and that was the instance the hon. Gentleman cited in support of his definite statement that when the Local Government Board were invited to produce evidence they declined to do so. This was the first he had heard of any allegation of this kind.

*MR. McCRAE thought that in that case the right hon. Gentleman could not have read the Blue-book. All that it was proposed to do was to put two witnesses in the Chair.

MR. WALTER LONG said the paragraph to which the hon. Member referred commenced with—

“Now, my Lords, there is another matter of procedure which I wish to say something about.”

which clearly showed that the learned counsel was addressing himself to the question of procedure.

MR. McCRAE maintained his statement that the Local Government Board, until they were asked to do so by Lord Balfour, refused to put sufficient evidence before the Committee, and said that anybody who read page 42 and following pages of the evidence would find it fully substantiated what he said. He also called attention to the fact that the assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman when this Bill was before the House for Second Reading, that they should be allowed to treat it in Committee as a private Bill, had been ignored by the Government who, he thought, had in this case entirely thrown over the right hon. Gentleman. What he protested against here, and what he had protested against in the Joint Committee, was that, after the decision of the Committee had been

given, the Government stepped in and took up a position which no promoter of a private Bill would have been allowed to do. The Committee was to consider this matter in the freest possible manner, and, having done so, and come to a decision, they had a representation from counsel for the promoters with regard to the decision they had come to. He protested against the Committee's freedom of action being interfered with in the way it was by the course which the Government adopted. But, even after their intervention, when the Committee came to the final schedule, if the Chairman had put the question in a constitutional way, that schedule would not have been before them that day. In spite of their protests, the Chairman insisted on putting the question in a certain way to produce a certain result.

*THE CHAIRMAN reminded the hon. Member that, this being a Joint Committee, and a Peer presiding, the procedure would be governed by the Rules obtaining in another place and not by those which governed Committees of the House of Commons, and that the hon. Member would not be entitled to criticise those Rules.

*MR. McCRAE said he was not criticising the Rules of the House of Lords. The point he desired to make was that neither the Rules of this House nor those of the House of Lords were observed.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that was a matter for the Members of the other House to consider for themselves.

*MR. McCRAE pointed out that the special Report was put in by the Chairman for the express purpose of giving those who protested against this procedure an opportunity of raising this question in both Houses.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that did not appear upon the special Report. The special Report was brought in to inform the Members of the two Houses of what had occurred. He did not think they would have any right to criticise the action of the Peer who presided over

Mr. McCrae.

the Joint Committee, any more than the House of Lords would have the right to criticise the action of a Member of this House, and certainly not upon this Motion.

SIR ROBERT REID asked if it would not be competent for a Member of this House to say, and establish before the Committee, that the form in which the Bill was now presented was not in accordance with the Rules of either House of Parliament.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think that had been suggested.

SIR ROBERT REID said he understood his hon. friend to say that the Rules of the House of Commons were not observed, and, later, that the way in which the noble Chairman put the question as to the final schedule to the Joint Committee was not in accordance with the Rules of the House of Lords either. That was why he ventured to submit that this House could not be so impotent as not to be able to discuss whether the Rules of both Houses had been violated.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Each person was master in his own house. They had no right to say that the Rules of the other House were not properly carried out. If, as the hon. Member said, they were not properly carried out, that was a matter for the other House itself. They had no business to interfere with them. They would resent very much in this House if the House of Lords were to comment on the fact that the Rules of the House of Commons were not carried out.

SIR ROBERT REID said his point was this. It was one thing to say that this House could not discuss the propriety of the Rules existing in the House of Lords. It was another thing to say that a Committee, on which the House of Commons was represented, had violated the Rules of the House of Lords which governed in this case, but which, *pro hac vice*, became their Rules.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the person who applied these Rules was not a Member of

this House. Upon him was cast the duty of interpreting those Rules, and he did not think they were entitled in this House to discuss his conduct on this Motion.

*MR. MCCRAE said he had made his protest, and he would not press the matter further than to commend to the notice of the Committee the special Report which was drafted with regard to the incident. His whole point was that the Committee, with the evidence before it, came to a certain conclusion, and he did not believe that the Committee would have altered its decision, even to the extent of having an equality of votes, had it not been for the pressure brought to bear by the Government. He did not wish to press his argument too far, but he felt that the responsibility was put upon them very unfairly. They had to consider whether they would take the responsibility of saying whether they should risk the passing of the measure by standing fast to principle, or whether they were to subordinate themselves to the Government. He felt the responsibility keenly, but he came to the conclusion that if there was any danger of the Bill not passing because of opposition to the size of the Board, the responsibility would lie with the Government, who were evidently prepared to sacrifice the interests of London on behalf of prejudice and narrow political bigotry.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said he had had some experience on administrative matters of this kind, and the opinion he had formed was that for a Board of seventy-three persons there would not be enough work to do. He thought there were other weighty reasons, too, why, at all events at the outset, the Board should not be constituted with too large a membership. In managing these undertakings one of the greatest difficulties arose from the constant search for new sources of supply, and the constant conflict that took place with the interests of outside areas. That was the inevitable consequence. At some future date the House might consequently be forced to consider the increase of the area over which this Board would exercise jurisdiction. These were the general reasons that he thought ought to guide the Committee in arriving at a decision as to the

number of members of this Board. He did not think anyone ought to vote for the Amendment, because even if thirty-five was the magic and mystic number it was thought to be it was too early to say so. The real time to raise this question was when they came to address themselves to the Schedules, and then they would be able to decide what the right number was. It was possible to consider this Clause and leave entirely open the ultimate number of members of which this Board should consist. He therefore suggested that their decision as to the numbers of the Board should be postponed until the Schedule was considered.

SIR ROBERT REID said the suggestion of the right hon. Member as to the propriety of postponing this point until the Schedule was considered, was not altogether new; it had already been made by an Amendment on the Paper. The difficulty was that owing to the way in which the Bill was framed it was impossible to consider this suggestion unless they in the first instance eliminated from the Clause now under discussion the word "seventy-one." If the Government would separate the discussion as to the numbers from the discussion as to composition so far as it could be separated, there were two ways of doing so. One was to take the discussion on numbers with the full freedom to discuss it on the Schedule also, and the other was to leave out the word "seventy-one" so that the words of the sub-section ran, "the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and other Members," which on the Schedule would enable the Committee to come to a full discussion on the question.

MR. W. F. SMITH (Strand, Westminster) said they had no objection to the postponement of the consideration of the actual numbers, provided the principle of the representation of the Metropolitan Boroughs was preserved.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was obliged to his right hon. friend and the hon. and learned Gentleman opposite for their suggestions, but the Committee must clearly understand that if he adopted the suggestion of his right hon. friend there should not be a debate on this question over and over again. It was a matter of perfect indifference to the Government

when the discussion was taken. He offered no objection to the course suggested, but he could not agree to leave out the number at this point if they were to have the debate not only on the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for the Chippenham Division but also on the Schedule. That must be understood.

MR. LOUGH asked whether the matter could not be dealt with by postponing the Clause.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) thought the suggestion of his right hon. friend the Member for Hallam was a most reasonable one, and he was quite ready to assent to it. It was a matter of complete indifference where his Amendment was brought in, so long as the matter was discussed, and he would gladly have it postponed.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said the spirit of the right hon. Gentleman was fully recognised, and he would, he hoped, reciprocally recognise the spirit by which he had been met on that side of the House. Everybody wished to have an adequate discussion. The only question was what was the most convenient time at which to have it, whether upon the Amendment of the hon. Member or upon the discussion of the Schedule. As an outsider he confessed he saw some little difficulty as to how the general size of the Board could be discussed upon the Schedule, because in the Schedule they were plunged at once into a discussion as to places, distances, sources, etc. Let not the Committee say that they were willing to put off this discussion until the Schedule was considered, unless they were sure it could be taken on the Schedule. But if the right hon. Gentleman would ensure that there should be a proper and adequate discussion when they came to the Schedule, he thought that might be perhaps the most convenient place to take it.

MR. WALTER LONG said he reciprocated the desire of the right hon. Gentleman to know where they would be when they came to the Schedule. He could not express an opinion as to where they would be at a later stage. He had

thought the Clause might possibly create some Parliamentary difficulty, and, in the event of that difficulty arising, he had proposed to move an Amendment which would have the effect of taking the Schedule out of its present position in the Bill and making it a part of the first Clause. He then saw the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division. That Amendment would serve the same purpose, and on it the whole question could be debated. Both that Amendment and the Government proposal could then be discussed, because in resisting the proposal of his hon. friend he would be compelled to defend that of the Government. If, however, there was any technical difficulty in the way of that being done, he was prepared to move the omission of all words after "appointed" in order to insert what at present was Schedule III. of the Bill. That would bring the whole question within the purview of the Clause, and altogether he thought it would be better to discuss the matter now than on the Schedule. That, however, was a matter for the Committee; all he was anxious about was that there should be one discussion of a clear and definite character, and a decision come to once and for all between the two alternatives.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that under the circumstances the Amendment should be withdrawn, as its only object was to raise the question of number. The alternatives now before the Committee were whether the discussion on both the size and the constitution of the Board should be taken on the Schedule or on the Amendment suggested by the right hon. Gentleman. He thought it would be difficult to have a general discussion on the Schedule, and therefore he would be in favour of the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea) thought it would be impossible to come to a proper decision as to how the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should be appointed, unless they knew what the constitution of the body was to be. He thought, therefore, the most convenient course would be to take the discussion on the whole question now, either upon the Amendment suggested

Mr. Walter Long.

by the President of the Local Government Board, or upon the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division.

MR. LOUGH pointed out that if the Amendment came after the word "appointed," the word "seventy-one" would have been passed. He hoped the Amendment would be brought in, before anything controversial was decided.

MR. WALTER LONG thought the Committee could decide as to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and then deal with the important question of the number. He was quite willing to agree that the question should be put in any form which would enable the whole matter to be discussed at once.

SIR ROBERT REID said all were agreed as to the desirability of discussing the whole question at once; the only point was as to how that could best be done. Did the right hon. Gentleman propose to keep "seventy-one" in the Clause? If so, they had better discuss the question of numbers before coming to the Schedule; if not, some words should be introduced into the Schedule, upon which the question of numbers could be there discussed.

MR. WALTER LONG thought it would perhaps facilitate matters if the word "seventy-one" was formally omitted.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

(4.33.) MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Haggerston) moved to omit the words "a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and." He wished to leave the Water Board perfectly free to appoint a Vice-Chairman in addition to a Chairman, to decide whether or not they should be paid, and to make the appointment or appointments annual or permanent as they thought best. These were important points. There was a great deal to be said in favour of having paid officials, but at the same time there were splendid precedents for attaching no salary to the offices. The Chairman of the London County Council, whose duties were of a much more multifarious character than those of the Chairman of the Water Board would be, was unpaid, and the Lord Mayor was in practically the same position as regarded salary, because,

although a certain sum was voted to him, his expenses were understood to be much in excess of the amount voted. In moving this Amendment he was not actuated by a desire to delay the Bill. He was extremely anxious that this water question, of which the ratepayers of London had been waiting for many years for a practical solution, should be settled in the interests of the people. It seemed to him, however, that the only object in retaining these words was to create two good berths to which handsome salaries attached. He was certain that men could be found to discharge the duties faithfully and efficiently without salary, and in order that the Board might be perfectly free in the matter, he moved that these words should be omitted.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 20, to leave out the words 'a chairman, and a vice-chairman and'—(Mr. Cremer.)

Question proposed—"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. WALTER LONG gathered that the objection of the hon. Member was not so much to the creation of the two offices, as to the proposal that the holders of the offices should be paid for their services.

MR. CREMER said whether they should be elected annually or permanently was another point.

MR. WALTER LONG said that that question was not raised by the Clause under consideration. If the hon. Member objected to the payment of a salary, he should move the rejection of sub-section (4). If the hon. Member took exception to the creation of a chairman and a vice-chairman, and in the same breath asked the Committee to believe that he had no desire to delay the progress of the Bill, he was making a rather large demand upon the credulity of Members. It was obvious that there must be a chairman and a vice-chairman, though the question of whether they should be paid or unpaid might be afterwards considered. There was bound to be a presiding officer, and it was also necessary that there should be an officer able to take the place of the presiding officer in the latter's absence.

MR. MELLOR (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby) thought the purpose of his hon. friend would be met by accepting the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman, and moving the omission of subsection 4.

MR. MCKENNA said that if these words were omitted, it would leave the Water Board to appoint a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman and as many executive officers as they thought necessary. It was quite clear, if the Government adhered to the proposal of a Board of the magnitude at present suggested, that it could not be an executive body, and that it would be necessary to have four or five handsomely paid officials to carry on the executive work of the Board. Under these circumstances he thought it useless to provide that there should be a chairman and a vice-chairman. There must be a chairman and a vice-chairman, but the Board ought to be left perfectly free to elect its own executive officers, as it was admitted on all hands that such a Board could not be anything more than a debating assembly.

MR. GREMER said he had not imagined for a moment that the Board could be constituted without a chairman to guide its deliberations. It was such a self-evident proposition that it was totally unnecessary to incorporate it in an Act of Parliament. For many years he had had a great deal to do with drawing up rules in connection with trades unions, but he had never known a body of working men who thought it necessary to provide that a chairman should be appointed to preside over the deliberations of the executive body.

MR. COHEN pointed out that the London County Council, which by universal consent was an admirably constituted body, had not only a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman but also a Deputy Chairman, and it was by statute obliged to appoint those three officers, each of whom was fully occupied.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said the hon. Member was mistaken as to the County Council being obliged to appoint those

three officers; the election was optional. He desired to know why this special provision had been introduced into the Bill, instead of the matter being left, as in the case of the London County Council, entirely in the hands of the body itself. This Board would be so large that he was afraid too much of the power would get into the hands of the paid officials. He thought it inexpedient that both should be statutory positions, and he could see neither precedent nor reason for such a proposal.

MR. LOUGH thought the main reason why the Clause was in its present form was that the Board should be enabled to elect two officers from outside if they desired to do so, and thus increase the unrepresentative character of the Board. This authority was already sufficiently far removed from the electorate, and he should therefore support the Amendment. The seventy-one members should be obliged to select their chairman from among their own number. No such provision existed in regard to any other public body, and in view of the fact that it would increase the unrepresentative character of the Board, he thought the words ought to be omitted.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) referred to the Local Government Act to show that the London County Council was under no statutory obligation to appoint a vice-chairman. He did not say that a vice-chairman would not be necessary in connection with the Water Board, but he thought the Committee ought to understand that the office under the County Council was not a statutory one.

CAPTAIN JESSEL said that, in giving the Water Board power to appoint a Chairman from outside, the Government were only following precedent, inasmuch as the Metropolitan Boroughs, as well as the London County Council and the London School Board, already possessed that power.

(458.) Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 191 ; Noes, 25. (Division List No. 305.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Beresford, Lord Chas. William
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Brodick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brotherton, Edward Allen
 Bull, William James
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Chamberlayne, T. (Shampton)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Croxley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets)
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Emmott, Alfred
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robt. Penrose
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest

Furness, Sir Christopher
 Galloway, William Johnson
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of London)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Sir EW. (Bry St Edmunds)
 Greene, W. Raymond - (Cambs.)
 Groves, James Grimble
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hovell, Joseph
 Howard, Jno (Kent, Faversham)
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
 Johnston, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kimber, Henry
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham)
 Legge, Colonel Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McCrae, George
 McKillop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Majendie, James A. H.
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walsworth)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred (Monmouth)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
 Muntz, Sir Philip A.
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Russell, T. W.
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Sanderson, Rt. Hon. Col. Edw. J.
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanark)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Thornburn, Sir Walter
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tuffnell, Lt. Colonel Edward
 Tuke, Sir John Batty
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Wallace, Robert
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
 Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Nottingham)
 Whiteley, H. (Aston and Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Powell - (Birmingham)
 Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
 Ambrose, Robert
 Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
 Atherley-Jones, L.

Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
 Boland, John
 Briggs, John
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James

Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)

Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crombie, John William
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Delany, William
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Elibank, Master of
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
 Harrington, Timothy
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jacoby, James Alfred

Jones, Dav. Brynmor (Swansea)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Lambert, George
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leng, Sir John
 Levy, Maurice
 London, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McKean, John
 McKillop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Murphy, John
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (R'scomm'n, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Pirie, Duncan V.

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Roe, Sir Thomas
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Tennant, Harold John
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'rsf'd)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Cremer and Mr.
 Lough.

Amendment moved—

“Clause 1, page 1, line 20, to omit ‘seventy-one.’”—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Agreed.

*MR. WHITMORE moved an Amendment giving the Local Government Board power to appoint in the first instance the Chairman and vice-chairman of the Board. A great deal of the success of the work of the Board would depend on the good sense and ability of their chairman and vice-chairman, and the selection of these gentlemen—one of the most important acts which the new Board would have to perform—would be their very first duty which they would have to perform when they had not got into the habit of co-operation. Surely it would be better that at the outset, the appointment should rest with the Local Government Board. He was most anxious to see this new departure in the water administration of London a success, and that was his reason for moving the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 1, line 21, to leave out the words ‘be appointed,’ and insert the words ‘until the time fixed by this Act for the first new appointment of a chairman and vice-chairman be appointed by the Local Government Board and afterwards.’”—(*Mr. Whitmore.*)

Question proposed—“That the words ‘be appointed’ stand part of the Clause.”

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON hoped the Government would not accept the Amend-

ment. One of the arguments in support of this body was that it was a representative body. It was not as representative as it might be; but that was the argument. To take out of its hands this most important power would be a serious evil. It seemed to be imagined that once the chairman and vice-chairman were appointed, they would remain in office during the period of that Board. He did not so read the Act, and he hoped the appointments would be annual. One of the things he feared in connection with this Board was that, in consequence of its size, much of the power would get into the hands of the chairman and vice-chairman, and therefore it was essential that they should be elected annually. Whether that was so or not, he thought the appointment should not be taken out of the hands of the Board. Among so many members it would surely be possible to find men capable of carrying out the duties of these offices. He should oppose the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG said the original proposal of the Government was that members of this new body should appoint their own chairman and vice-chairman from among themselves, but he had received several representations pointing in the direction of the Amendment. It seemed to him very desirable that there should be two gentlemen clothed with authority in

office before the actual election or selection of the body was completed, to guide the new body; and, further, it was very important that the first two appointments should not in any way be made haphazard. He had had great difficulty in arriving at a decision, as there was much weight in the views of the hon. Member for Poplar, while at the same time he was greatly impressed by the arguments on the other side. He could only say that if, in the opinion of the Committee, it should be thought desirable that this duty should rest with the Department, he was quite willing to accept that decision. He proposed to leave the matter to the Committee to decide as they thought fit. In reference to a remark made in the course of the discussion, he might say that the appointments as determined by the schedule would be held for three years.

MR. LOUGH thought it a pity that this Amendment should be accepted. The Government were gradually lowering the status of this new body. It had been said more than once that if the number of members was reduced the administrative excellence of the body would be increased. That would be so if good men were appointed and they devoted their attention as business-men to the difficulties which had to be faced. But they would not be able to do that if they felt that they were in the hands of two or three paid officials appointed by the Local Government Board from

outside. The Board should have the full responsibility of its position thrown upon it. This Amendment was a step in the direction of relieving it of that responsibility, and it was a great pity that it should be done. The gentlemen so appointed would become permanent officers; they would get a life interest in the concern; and the whole Board would sink into the condition which other Boards had sunk into, and lose its administrative activity and ability. He hoped as the Government had left the Committee free to vote as they pleased many hon. Members on the other side would venture to disagree with the views of the hon. Member for Chelsea.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) could hardly believe the hon. Member for Poplar to be in earnest in suggesting that the chairman of this enormous Water Trust should hold office for one year only. His experience of water companies had shown him that the more experience the chairman had the more valuable he became. For that reason he should support the Amendment, in order that for the first chairman there might be chosen a man more acquainted with the subject than the members of this Board were likely to be.

(5.23.) Question put.

The Committee divided: — Ayes, 120
Noes, 155. (Division List No. 306.)

AYES.

Allan, Sir William (Gateshead)
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bull, William James
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gordon, Hn. J.E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gunter, Sir Robert
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)

Jones, William (Carn'r vonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Leamy, Edmund
Leng, Sir John
Levy, Maurice
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Lough, Thomas
London, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)

O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Raach, Major Frederic Carne
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)

Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarka)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John

Thorburn, Sir Walter
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Chas Henry (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Captain Norton and Mr.
Cremner.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allhuson, Augustus Henry Eden
Anstruther, H. T.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beresford, Lord Charles Wm.
Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dewar, Sir T. R. (T'wer H'mlets)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Ernest

Galloway, William Johnson
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Goachen, Hon. George Joachim
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bry St. Edm'nds)
Greene, W. Raymond. (Cambs.)
Groves, James Grimble
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Horner, Frederick William
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Houlst, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kimber, Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lytelton, Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, John Cumming
McKillop, Jas. (Stirlingshire)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley

Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sands, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Saseoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seton-Karr, Henry
Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M. Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M. Tray
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Take, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (T'nton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley H. (Ashton-und. Lyne)
Williams, Rt. Hn. J. Powell. (Birm.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Whitmore and Mr.
W. F. D. Smith.

It being after half-past Five of
the clock, the Chairman left the Chair
to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit
again upon Monday next.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before
Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 21st July, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAY BILL.

Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee.

NEW FOREST (SALE OF LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES) BILL.

Reported, without Amendment, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House tomorrow.

WEST HAM CORPORATION BILL,

NEWPORT CORPORATION BILL,

NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL,

LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bills passed, and returned to the Commons.

NORTH METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS BILL,

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

CROYDON AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made. Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL,

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Amendments reported according to order, and Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow.

PETITIONS.

LICENSING BILL.

Petition for amendment of: Of Justices of the Peace for the city and county of Worcester; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING BILL.

Petitions in favour of: Of Swinton Crimitive Methodists; Eccles Free Church Pouncil; British Temperance League; Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CENSUS OF IRELAND (1901).

Part II. General Report.

SALMON FISHERIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Report of the Commissioners on Salmon Fisheries; Part I., Report and Maps.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Report of the Principal Chemist, Government Laboratory, upon the work of the Laboratory, for the year ended 31st March, 1902, with appendices.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 2857. Austria-Hungary (Bohemia).

No. 2858. United States (States of Oregon, Washington and Idaho).

No. 2859. Brazil (Porto Alegre).

COLONIES (ANNUAL).

No. 357. Northern Territories of the Gold Coast; Report for 1901.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS REGULATION ACTS, 1881 AND 1892.

Thirty-eighth annual report on alkali, etc., works, by the Chief Inspector: proceedings during the year 1901; presented to the Local Government Board and to the Secretary for Scotland.

HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (IRELAND) (PROBATE DIVISION).

Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1901.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POST OFFICE SITE (OBAN) DRAFT
PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Ordered, That the evidence taken before the Committee of this House on the Callander and Oban Railway Bill, 1897, be referred to the Commissioners appointed under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, to inquire into the Post Office Site (Oban) Draft Provisional Order.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAM-
BRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Statute made by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, on 20th March, 1902, amending Statute III., twelve (Fellowships held by Professors) of the Statutes of the College (laid before the House on Friday last); to be printed. (No. 157.)

LICENSING BILL.

House in Committee (according to Order).

Clause 1:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said it was most necessary that there should be power to apprehend a person found drunk in a place of public entertainment, and in such a place of public resort as a railway station; but he understood the Clause, as at present drafted, did not cover such cases. The Clause as he proposed to amend it would provide that if a person was found drunk in any highway or other place, or place of public entertainment, or resort, whether a building or not, or on any licensed premises, and appeared to be incapable of taking care of himself, he might be apprehended and dealt with according to law.

Amendment moved—

“In page 1, line 8, after ‘place,’ to insert ‘or a place of public entertainment or resort.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER said the objection to inserting these words lay in the fact that at present it was not an offence to be drunk in a place of public entertainment or resort, and that the Clause merely dealt with existing offences. He hoped the right rev. Prelate would not press his Amendment.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER withdrew his Amendment at this stage, but intimated his intention of moving it on Clause 2.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS moved to insert the words “or is a nuisance to the public.” This was his own Amendment, although he had others on the Paper which he had undertaken to move on the part of the trade. When he came to move these Amendments he should have an explanation on the part of the trade to make, and he proposed to read the reasons why each particular Amendment should be agreed to. As to this particular Amendment, he thought that when a man was found staggering about the street, and in his drunken condition knocking up against people, the police should have power to arrest him. Drunkenness could best be suppressed by the police by an Amendment of this kind.

Amendment moved—

“In page 1, line 9, after ‘himself,’ to insert ‘or is a nuisance to the public.’”—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER thought that the words of the noble Earl were of a vague character and might be liable to misconstruction. The case of a man staggering through the streets would be covered by the present law, which enabled the police to apprehend a man who was drunk and disorderly and who was making himself a nuisance.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS said he would not press his Amendment, but he hoped that what the noble Lord had said would be fully reported, and that the police would act upon it.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved an Amendment which provided that if any person is found drunk in any highway or other public place, “or

place of public entertainment or resort," while having the charge of a child apparently under the age of seven years, he may be apprehended and made liable to fine or imprisonment. The right rev. Prelate considered that, as the Clause most rightly made it an offence for a person to be drunk in certain places while in charge of a child under seven years of age, it was highly desirable that it should be extended in the direction of his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 2, line 12, after 'place,' to insert 'or place of public entertainment or resort.'"—*(The Lord Bishop of Winchester.)*

LORD BELPER said his objection to the Amendment was this—that all other offences under this Bill in reference to persons arrested for drunkenness were confined to offences committed on the highway or other public place, or on licensed premises. The Home Office considered it very undesirable to extend the definition of this Clause, and so extend the provisions of the Bill in one isolated case.

THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY hoped the Amendment would not be disposed of without further consideration or discussion. A new offence was created by the Clause, and the offence created ought to be extended to other places than those mentioned in the Clause. It was unreasonable to say that because no such power had been given it should not be given.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH thought the argument of the noble Lord in charge of the Bill would prevent any change in the law. He was of opinion that a great deal could be said in favour of including the offence mentioned by the Amendment within the scope of the Clause. He thought that the words "or resort" might be very well omitted by the right rev. Prelate.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER mentioned that, according to decisions in the Law Courts, railway stations, theatres, concert halls, athletic grounds, and auction rooms had been held to be places of public resort. These ought to

be included under the new provision, and he hoped the noble Lord would reconsider whether he could not accept the Amendment.

LORD BELPER said that if the right rev. Prelate would withdraw the Amendment he would undertake to meet him, to some extent, by putting in words in the definition Clause to meet the special point he had raised.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER agreed to accept this undertaking.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS suggested that after the words "found drunk while having the charge of a child apparently under the age of seven years," the words "or of any horsed vehicle or motor car" should be inserted.

LORD BELPER pointed out that the Amendment was unnecessary, as a drunken man in charge of a horsed vehicle or motor car could be arrested under the present law.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:—

THE EARL OF WEMYSS moved an Amendment to provide that the licensee should be required to prove that "he did not knowingly suffer drunkenness to take place on his premises," instead of being required to prove, as the Clause proposed, that he took "all reasonable steps for preventing drunkenness on his premises."

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 8, to leave out from 'him' to the end of the Clause and to insert 'did not knowingly suffer the said drunkenness to take place on his premises.'"—*(The Earl of Wemyss.)*

LORD BELPER said he was rather surprised that such an important Amendment should be moved without any explanation being given of the reason why it was introduced. The Clause dealt with a very important subject, and with a case where the law had been proved to be very unsatisfactory.

There were an enormous number of convictions for drunkenness, especially arising out of drunkenness in public-houses, whilst the number of convictions for permitting drunkenness was infinitesimal. The words in the Clause had been carefully thought out, and they seemed to get over the difficulty. As a matter of fact, the Clause recognised that a great privilege was given to the licence-holder, and that within the terms of that privilege it was his duty to exercise his trust with due care, and to do everything he could to prevent drunkenness on his premises. The Clause looked to the licensed person to prove that he had taken all reasonable steps to prevent drunkenness. He thought the words of the Bill would be much more effective than those of the Amendment. It was the duty of the person in charge to take steps to find out whether a man was drunk before serving him, otherwise it would be easy for any publican to shut his eyes to the fact. The words of the Clause were not unreasonable, and it would be for the magistrates to decide whether the publican did take reasonable steps. He was aware that the words in the Clause were not the same as were suggested by the majority and minority Reports of the Royal Commission, but the object in view was the same. He could not accept the Amendment, believing this Clause to be the most useful in the Bill for putting down drunkenness.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS said the trade were of opinion that the words in the Bill, "reasonable steps" were vague, and might be very differently construed, and that the licensed victualler should not be subjected to undefined obligations. As the noble Lord had admitted, the words in the Bill did not meet even the recommendations of either the minority or majority Reports of the Royal Commission. The majority Report (page 21) said—

"Where a person is found drunk on the licensed premises, or observed quitting them in that condition, the licence-holder should be required to prove that he and his servants were ignorant of the drunkenness, or that if they knew it they did not permit the offender to remain."

The minority Report was even clearer, and on page 168 said—

Lord Belper.

"Whether a person were found drunk on the premises or were seen leaving the premises in a drunken condition, it should be incumbent on the publican to show that neither he nor his servants knew of the drunkenness, and that he did not with such knowledge permit him to remain on his premises."

The words of his Amendment were practically those of the minority Report.

VISCOUNT CROSS hoped the Government would stand by the words in the Bill. The effect of those words was to throw the onus of proof upon the publican, which was preferable to throwing it upon the prosecution.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 4 agreed to.

*LORD WINDSOR said the new Clause standing in his name had for its object more the prevention of crime than the punishment of crime after it had been committed. It was moved in the other House on the Report stage, and was opposed by the Home Secretary for the one reason that it would diminish the responsibility of the publican. The object of the Clause was to provide that instructions should be given to the police generally—where they were present and were able to do so—to assist the publican to prevent crime. But absence of warning could in no case be pleaded as a defence. Under the Bill as it stood, a publican might unknowingly commit an offence and be convicted. The Amendment which had just been withdrawn would have prevented that state of things, because the noble Lord suggested the insertion of the word "knowingly." As the Bill now stood they were putting a man into a position in which he could commit an offence against the law and be convicted of that offence although he committed it without knowing he was doing so. It surely was not unreasonable, if they put a man into that position, to give general instructions to the police that when they saw a man who was obviously drunk going into a public-house they should warn the publican at once, so that the man should not be served. That seemed to be the only reasonable view, and was supported by the evidence given by Sir Albert de Rutzen before the Royal Commission, and quoted by him (Lord Windsor) on

the Second Reading debate. Sir John Bridge, in giving evidence before the Royal Commission, said his opinion was that if a constable saw a drunken man go into a public-house it was quite right for him to enter and acquaint the landlord of the fact. Then, only last month, another magistrate, sitting at the Greenwich Police Court, dismissed a summons against a publican for permitting drunken persons to be on the premises, on the ground that the police constable might have stopped the man before he went into the house, but did not do so. He quoted those instances to show that it was not at all an uncommon practice for a police constable to take this very natural course, and surely it was reasonable to put in the Bill, that regulations should be made by the various police authorities showing that it was the intention that constables should not only be set to watch the public-houses in order to obtain as many convictions against the publicans as they possibly could, but that they should also do their best to prevent crime. He hoped the Government would think it a reasonable Clause to insert in the Bill.

Amendment moved, to insert as a new Clause—

“Regulations shall be made by the police authority for the purpose of securing that, where possible, a constable who sees a drunken person (or anyone who is a convicted person within the meaning of this Act) entering, or about to enter, licensed premises (or a club registered under Part III. of this Act), shall at once warn the person in charge of the premises against serving such person.”—(*Lord Windsor.*)

LORD HENEAGE thought it was only fair, if the Government allowed certain wretched and miserable public houses to exist in the country districts, they should give the people who served in them warning wherever possible. In rural districts the landlord of small houses, which in many cases did not afford a living to the tenant, was generally absent all day long, and the bar was left to his wife or servant, who also had the household duties to attend to. In such cases it was desirable that the police should give warning wherever it was possible to do so. The publican had a right to have, as far as possible, the protection and guidance of the law. He saw one danger, however, in the new

Clause. A publican might plead that the police had not given warning. He did not know how that would stand, but words ought to be inserted to make it clear that a publican, when charged with permitting drunkenness, could not plead in defence that the police had not given him notice. That was a matter that could be looked into by the Standing Committee.

LORD BELPER said it was the duty of a policeman to do everything he could to prevent a contravention of the law, but it was unusual and undesirable to define the duties of the police in an Act of Parliament. There was also the danger, if the Clause were accepted, that a licence-holder charged with permitting drunkenness might escape on the plea that he was not warned by the police. He could assure the House and the noble Lord that they quite recognised that it was the duty of a policeman to do what was pointed out in the proposed new Clause. If the Amendment were withdrawn, he could undertake that the Home Secretary would issue a circular pointing out to the police that it was their duty to assist publicans in keeping the law, and not to lay traps for them.

*LORD WINDSOR said it was not his intention, in moving the Amendment, to allow the plea of not having been warned to be set up by the publican as a defence. As it was thought inadvisable to insert a provision of this sort in a Bill, he thought he ought to accept the undertaking of his noble friend, and in those circumstances he would withdraw his Amendment.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS said this Amendment had the strong support of the trade.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 5 :—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved an Amendment providing that, instead of making a separation order, the Court might, with the consent of the wife, order her to be detained in an inebriates' retreat. He said this subsection dealt with one of the most difficult subjects in the Bill. The first

part of the Clause, which protected a wife against a drunken husband in a case of extreme necessity, did not meet with any opposition, but in the second part they had to face the problem of a woman being turned absolutely adrift by her husband without any chance of obtaining regularly the money for maintenance to which she was by law entitled. She might have small chance of getting the money under the law, and there was a danger of her place being taken by someone who would occupy her position as wife without marriage. By the Amendment he hoped this difficulty could be met, and the woman would have the option of going into a reformatory and beginning a new life. Thus there would be a chance of restoring peace into the household. Objection was made to his Clause on the ground that no drunken woman would give her consent to such detention. This, he thought, was not the case. The experience of those valuable public servants, the police-court missionaries, was strongly in favour of the provision he advocated.

Amendment moved—

"In page 2, line 40, after 'wife,' to insert 'Provided that, instead of making an order in pursuance of paragraph (a) of this sub-section, the Court may, with the consent of the wife, order her to be committed to, and detained in, any retreat licensed under the Inebriates' Acts, 1879 to 1900, the licensee of which is willing to receive her; and such order shall have effect as if she had been admitted to the retreat under Section 10 of the Habitual Drunkards Act, 1879, as amended by any subsequent enactments.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER thought the Amendment would be an improvement to the Clause, which was entirely in conformity with the provisions of the former Act. It would obviously be an advantage that a woman in this position should be given an opportunity of deciding whether she would not go into a reformatory and begin a new life, with the possibility of being reunited with her husband.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: Would the husband have any option under this clause?

LORD BELPER: No, I think not.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6:—

The Lord Bishop of Winchester.

LORD BELPER proposed a drafting Amendment to this Clause, dealing with the prohibition of sale of liquor to persons declared to be habitual drunkards. The Amendment provided that "for any subsequent offence" a fine "not exceeding twenty pounds" shall be inflicted, instead of "twenty pounds."

Amendment moved—

"In page 3, line 31, after 'person' to insert 'to a fine not exceeding.'"—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 6, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 7 agreed to.

Clause 8:—

LORD BELPER proposed, in the following sub-section, "On any application for the grant, renewal, or transfer of a licence the licensing justices shall have regard to any entries in the register of convictions relating either to the person by whom, or to the premises in respect of which, the licence is to be held," to substitute for the word "convictions" the word "licences."

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 15, to leave out 'convictions' and to insert 'licences.'"—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS proposed to add to the end of the sub-section the following:—"Except where the convictions are for offences of a technical or trivial nature, or where the last recorded conviction is more than three years old." He contended that where the licence had been renewed for three years and no later offence had been committed, no power should be given to the magistrate to interfere.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 16, after 'held,' to insert 'except where the convictions are for offences of a technical or trivial nature, or where the last recorded conviction is more than three years old.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER, in opposing the Amendment, said endorsement was done away with altogether, and in its place it was provided that a register of every conviction should be kept. The magistrates

should have absolute discretion as to how far they should give regard to previous convictions. If the words of the noble Earl were accepted, the magistrates would not be able to exercise that discretion. The Government preferred the Clause as it stood. The magistrates were not obliged to take a particular course of action in consequence of the convictions recorded in the register.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD BELPER said the object of the new sub-section standing in his name was to make it perfectly clear that the system of endorsing licences had been abolished.

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 20, to add as a new sub-section: After the commencement of this Act no conviction shall be recorded on a licence."—*(Lord Belper.)*

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 8, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 9 :—

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

[THE EARL OF WEMYSS said that persons now trading as wine and spirit dealers, and who sold cigars, would, under this Clause, have to obtain a justices' licence under which to conduct their business simply because they did sell cigars. The effect of his Amendment would be to provide that the sub-section should not apply to any excise licence taken out by a spirit dealer or wine dealer for premises which were exclusively used for the sale of intoxicating liquors or of intoxicating liquors, mineral waters, "and cigars."

Amendment moved—

"In page 4, line 29, after 'waters' to insert 'and cigars.'"—*(The Earl of Wemyss.)*

LORD BELPER said that if they accepted the Amendment they could not stop at cigars, but would have to include cigarettes, biscuits, etc. He did not see any reason why cigars should be specially included.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN moved to leave out the words "except as herein-after provided," his object being, if their Lordships accepted this Amendment, to subsequently move the omission of sub-section 4, which ran as follows :—

"Provided that where a licence for the sale of wine, spirits, liqueurs, sweets, or cider, not to be consumed on the premises, was in force on the 25th day of June, 1902, an application for the renewal of such licence, or of any licence granted by way of renewal thereof from time to time, shall not be refused to the person who held such licence on the 25th day of June, 1902, except on one or more of the grounds on which it might have been refused if this Act had not passed, or on the ground that the licensee has sold surreptitiously under such licence, or has assisted in concealing or misrepresenting the nature of goods sold under such licence, or has in any other way, in the opinion of the justices, been guilty of misconduct in the management of his business under such licence."

The effect of this sub-section was to give persons holding grocers' licences on June 25th last an absolute right to claim such licences during the remainder of their lifetime. That was a principle that ought not to be adopted in dealing with licences. Justices would therefore be prevented from exercising any control over such licences for the next twenty years at least, and the serious character of such an exemption would be seen when he mentioned that at present there were some 10,000 or 11,000 grocers' licences in existence. The powers of the justices would, in fact, be limited entirely to the new licences. He maintained that if it was right for justices to exercise any discretion at all, it was right for them to exercise it as to all these licences. It had been said that if the Clause had been passed as it was introduced it would have had the effect of abolishing grocers' licences altogether, but people who thus argued could know very little about the matter. It was very undesirable to introduce still further the exemptions in the Licensing Act. The danger of postponing legislation of this kind for a long period was seen in the case of the anti-1869 beer-houses, of which there were 35,000 in existence, and which at present were only under partial control of the justices, who could not deal with any of these licences except in reference to the character of the individual licence-holder or the

manner in which the house was conducted. This was one of the disastrous effects of postponed legislation, and they had seen that many of the worst houses in the trade were to be found among those privileged houses, some of which sold very little beer, and only lived a precarious existence in the hope that compensation would be given for their abolition. They wanted no vested interests created in these grocers' licences. The course adopted by the Government in this matter was at variance with both the majority and the minority Reports of the Royal Commission, as both these Reports recommended that such licences should be brought under the control of the justices. Besides, some years ago, Mr. Ritchie, when a private Member of the other House, successfully passed through Parliament a Bill bringing off-licences under the control of the justices without any kind of exemption. He had failed to understand the reasons which induced the Home Secretary to accept this provision at the last moment. If the justices were to be trusted at all, they should be trusted completely, and should be free to use their power free and unfettered. By carrying his Amendment, the Clause would be restored to the form in which it was when the Bill was originally introduced into the House of Commons.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 9, page 4, lines 35 and 36, to leave out 'except as hereinafter provided.'"—(*The Earl of Camperdown.*)

LORD BELPER said that the Amendment which had been moved was undoubtedly one of importance. The Clause for the first time gave the licensing justices power to deal with grocers' licences according to their discretion. It was not correct to say that this particular sub-section would give the present holders the right to have the licence as long as they lived. All that it said was that they should have the licences upon the old terms so long as they should require them. This was not necessarily as long as they lived. The case of grocers' licences was entirely different from that of beer-house licences. The proposal was not brought forward because there was any serious complaint with regard to the way in which grocers' licences were managed,

The Earl of Camperdown.

nor because of their inordinate number, but from the fact that they were very much increasing, and that it seemed to the Home Secretary desirable that power should be given to the justices to prevent that increase, and put a limit upon their number. The Clause was not framed on the assumption that grocers' licences were an evil, and ought to be abolished. The exemption of the existing licences was accepted by the Government as a compromise.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN said he had carefully read the proceedings in the other House, but failed to find anything in support of the view that the exemption was accepted as a compromise.

LORD BELPER said that was the case, for on a division the temperance party did not challenge a division. Looking to the fact that they were not creating a vested interest, and that there was no strong desire to reduce the licences which existed, he hoped the House would not accept the Amendment.

LORD HENEAGE contended that the effect of the proviso was to give a vested interest in a licence in many cases to young men who had just succeeded to a business. Those persons had never had a vested interest before. Why should they have it now?

LORD BELPER denied that they gave a vested interest. They only enabled the existing holders of licences to obtain a renewal on the same conditions as before.

LORD HENEAGE: Exactly. In future these licences must be renewed, no matter what was the age of the licensees nor for how long a period they might be capable of holding them. By that very proviso they created a vested interest in the licences which already existed. With regard to the alleged compromise, their Lordships had not been informed that a circular was sent out from very influential persons holding a large number of licensed grocers' shops, with a few to putting pressure upon Members of the other House to get this proviso put in. The compromise did not take place in the House of Commons, and he hoped their Lordships would not think much of it, but deal with the question entirely on its merits.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER was ready to support the Government to the best of his power in their endeavours, realising as he did the extreme difficulty they had to contend with, but he could not follow them in this case. The noble Earl had made out an unanswerable case. There was nothing about a compromise in the debates in *Hansard*.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD assured the Committee that there was no new vested interest created by this proviso. An existing grocer's licence might still be refused on the grounds on which it might be refused if this Act had not passed. The power of the justices was exceedingly wide with respect to the renewal of licences, and if this reservation was not made, justices might say they objected to all grocers' licences, and might proceed accordingly to abolish all such licences. The proviso prevented such a sweeping away of all grocers' interest.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY asked why the Government expressed such profound distrust of the justices to whom they were giving these additional powers. And why did they introduce the Bill without this exemption?

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK did not think the argument of the noble and learned Lord the Chancellor of the Duchy touched the point, for the reasons that if the justices adopted the extraordinary course suggested, the persons holding the licences could appeal against their decision.

*LORD WINDSOR pointed out that the recommendation of the Royal Commission that grocers' licences should be put under the licensing authority was part of a large scheme dealing with all licences. The Bill already gave two new grounds on which the magistrates could refuse to renew a licence; and he hoped, therefore, that the Amendment would not be agreed to.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE said that no distrust of the licensing authority was implied in the Clause. As to the change which had been made in another place, no doubt the Bill as originally introduced was an excellent one, but that was not to say that all proposals for its improvement must necessarily be shut out.

EARL SPENCER said he preferred the Bill in its original form. The Clause as it stood would strengthen the position of the grocers who held licences. He was opposed to doing away altogether with grocers' licences; but, considering the evidence before the Royal Commission, it was evidently high time that these licences should be brought under the same control as other licences. There was nothing to show that the magistrates would be more disposed to sweep away grocers' licences than any other form of licence; and their authority ought not to be hampered.

On Question whether the words proposed to be left out shall stand part of the Clause, the House divided:—Contents, 53; Not-Contents, 38.

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Devonshire, D. (L. President.)

Norfolk, D. (E. Marshal.)

Grafton, D.

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Pembroke and Montgomery, E. (L. Steward.)

Bathurst, E.

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Cawdor, E.

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Doncaster, E. (D. Buccleuch and Queensberry.)

Dudley, E.

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Romney, E.

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Vane, E. (M. Londonderry.)

Waldegrave, E. [Teller.]

Yarborough, E.

Cross, V.

Goschen, V.

Allerton, L.

Ashbourne, L.

Belhaven and Stenton, L.

Belper, L.

Boyle, L. (E. Cork and Orrery.)

Churchill, L. [Teller.]

Clements, L. (E. Leitch.)

Colchester, L.

Colville of Culross, L.

Congleton, L.

Dawnay, L. (V. Downe.)

James, L.

Killanin, L.

Kintore, L. (E. Kintore.)

Lawrence, L.

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NOT-CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

Camperdown, E. [*Teller.*]

Carlisle, E.

Durham, E.

Morley, E.

Northbrook, E.

Spencer, E.

Stamford, E.

Falkland, V.

Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)

Hampden, V.

Knutsford, V.

Chichester, L. Bp.

Gloucester, L. Bp.

Rochester, L. Bp.

St. Albans, L. Bp.

Winchester, L. Bp.

Brampton, L.

Burghclere, L.

Calthorpe, L.

Clonbrock, L.

Coleridge, L.

Davey, L.

Denman, L.

Farrer, L.

Foley, L.

Hatherton, L.

Heneage, L. [*Teller.*]

Lamington, L.

Leigh, L.

Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)

Reay, L.

Ribblesdale, L.

Rosebery, L. (*E. Rosebery*)

St. Levan, L.

Sandhurst, L.

Sinclair, L.

Wandsworth, L.

Amendment negatived.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER proposed a drafting Amendment to sub-Section 4 which would make the last words read "guilty of misconduct in the licensing management of his business under such licence."

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 19, after the second 'the,' to insert 'licensing.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 9, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 10 :—

THE EARL OF WEMYSS said the argument in Grand Committee was directed against the use of "screens." The words of the Clause were indefinite and vague, and did not state from whose observation. The words he proposed in his Amendment ensured the person selling having full opportunity of observing or identifying anyone who was either intoxicated, a "convicted" person under the meaning of Clause 6, or a child messenger under age.

Amendment moved—

"In page 5, line 29, to leave out from 'conceals' to 'for' in line 30, and to insert 'the person obtaining intoxicating liquor from the observation of the person supplying the same.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER said the concealment of the person obtaining intoxicating liquor from the observation of the person supplying it was only one of the objects which the Clause was intended to meet. If the Amendment of the noble Earl were accepted it would deprive the justices of the power of supervising the structural alterations.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER questioned whether the words in the Clause would be construed to cover the case referred to by the noble Earl, and suggested the combination with them of the noble Earl's words.

LORD BELPER said it seemed to him that the words covered the case completely.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS moved to amend sub-Section 4, which provided that—

"On any application for the renewal of a licence for the sale by retail of intoxicating liquors to be consumed on the premises, the licensing justices may require a plan of the premises to be produced before them . . . and on renewing any such licence they may, by order, direct that, within a time fixed by the order, such alterations as they think reasonably necessary to secure the proper control of the business, etc."

He moved to omit the words "they think reasonably necessary to secure the proper control of the business," and to insert "may be necessary for the due observance of the law." He did not think it was legitimate for magistrates to interfere with the conduct of the licence holder's business except where the law was violated.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 12, to leave out from 'as' to 'shall' in line 14, and to insert 'may be necessary for the due observance of the law.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER said this Amendment was moved and objected to in the House of Commons, and the words in the Clause were accepted as a reasonable compromise. The words proposed by

the Amendment were very vague. It was impossible to know exactly what kind of alterations would be covered by the words in the Amendment and, in the circumstances, he hoped the House would adhere to the Clause as it stood.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER proposed an Amendment empowering the justices to direct that such alterations should be made in that part of the premises where intoxicating liquor was sold or consumed, "or which is used as a means of communication between such part and any street or other public way." He should have thought that in the second part of the Clause it was as necessary to have some proper description of the public-house as it was in the first part.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 15, after 'consumed' to insert 'or which is used as a means of communication between such part and any street or other public way.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER said that if the words in the Amendment were introduced they might give rise to a number of difficult questions. The object of the Clause was to give the justices control over the structure of those parts of the premises where intoxicating liquors were sold and consumed. In many cases it might happen that the communication to the street was not under the control of the licence-holder at all.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD BELPER moved an Amendment which would make the order of the justices subject to an appeal to a Court of Quarter Sessions as provided by the Alehouse Act, 1828.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 16, after 'sessions' to insert 'as provided by the Alehouse Act, 1828.'"—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS proposed an Amendment to the effect that if any such order for structural alterations was made and complied with "or reversed

on appeal" no further requisition for the alteration should be made within the next five years. He said it was obviously unfair that if the justices had made an order which had been successfully appealed against, they should be able annually to put the licence holder to trouble and expense on a matter already adjudicated upon.

Amendment moved—

"In page 6, line 17, after 'with' to insert 'or reversed on appeal.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER did not think the point raised was one likely to happen. He was unable to accept the Amendment, for if one particular order had been reversed the words of the noble earl would prevent any other order of a smaller character being made in respect of structural alterations.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS was strongly in favour of the words, but in face of the opposition to them he withdrew the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD BELPER proposed two drafting Amendments to the end of the sub-section, which read as follows—

"If any such order is not complied with the licensed person shall, on summary conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 20s. for every day during which the default continues."

The first Amendment was—

"To omit the words 'any such order is not complied with.'"

The second was—

"To insert after 'person,' the words 'makes default in complying with any such order.'"

Amendments agreed to.

LORD BELPER said the sub-section standing in his name had been asked for by the liquor trade, and was a reasonable provision.

Amendment moved—

"After line 22, to insert as a new sub-section: '(5) Notice of any order under this section shall be forthwith given by the clerk to the owner of the premises in respect of which the order is made.'"—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 10, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 11 agreed to.

Clause 12 :—

* THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said this Clause provided that no clerk of licensing justices—

“Shall, as solicitor or agent for any person, conduct or act in any application for or in respect of a licence or any other proceedings whatsoever under the Licensing Acts, at any licensing or petty sessions held for the district for which he is the clerk, except so far as relates to the preparation of notices or forms, etc.”

He moved as an Amendment—

“The insertion of the words ‘or any adjoining district’ between ‘clerk’ and ‘except.’”

He said the matter had been before the House on former occasions, and was the subject of discussion last year. It came out in evidence before the Royal Commission that in the case of two adjoining divisions served by the same Brewery Company, the magistrates’ clerk in division A, acted in all the company’s cases in division B, and the magistrates’ clerk in division B, acted in division A. This enabled the Brewery Company to secure by what could hardly be called legitimate means, the interest of the magistrates’ clerk in all their cases.

Amendment moved—

“In page 6, line 32, after ‘clerk,’ to insert ‘or any adjoining district.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

EARL BATHURST said this Clause had had a very chequered career in another place, and he thought that the Amendment was unnecessary because it would do no good for the cause of temperance for which the Bill was introduced. So far as the magistrates’ clerks were concerned, it would place them in a very awkward position, and they would have either to sacrifice their position or give up the greater part of their private practice as solicitors. In the Cirencester Division, in which he acted as a magistrate, the magistrates’ clerk would, if the Amendment was accepted, either have to resign or give up his private work in nine towns. He did not think that any influence which the licensing clerk could bring to bear on the licensing magistrates would result in extra licences being given.

VISCOUNT CROSS also expressed the opinion that the Amendment would inflict hardship on justices’ clerks. It was not, he reminded their Lordships, a very easy task to obtain such clerks as were required, and this Amendment would considerably increase that difficulty by still further limiting the choice. He hoped the Amendment would not be accepted.

LORD HENEAGE supported the Amendment, which he thought a very reasonable one. If justices could not be trusted to shield themselves from the influence of their own clerks, they ought not to be subjected to the influence of the same clerks in other divisions of their district. The same justices sat on different Benches very frequently, and magistrates’ clerks were very much connected one with another.

LORD BELPER thought it was going far to disqualify a man from acting in any district besides the one for which he was clerk. It could hardly be assumed that the clerk would corruptly influence the Bench by acting outside the area in which he was magistrate’s clerk. Such an argument was extremely far-fetched. Besides, to pass such an Amendment would be to seriously restrict the incomes of the clerks. In the case of the Bench upon which he sat, such an Amendment would have the effect of preventing the magistrate’s clerk acting as a solicitor in three counties. As the noble Viscount had pointed out, it was very important that magistrates should be able to command the services of the best men they could get as clerks, but this Amendment would most seriously restrict their choice.

EARL SPENCER supported the Amendment. In dealing with licensing matters, everyone should be above suspicion, or the least chance of suspicion, and this could not be the case if magistrates’ clerks were allowed to practise in districts where the magistrates under whom they acted went. No doubt the petty sessional clerk did not rule the magistrates, but he was a person of great importance in the public eye, and of great importance to the magistrates, and it was of the high-

est value that he should not be supposed to be interested in any case that was brought before the magistrates. He agreed that it was desirable to get the best men for these posts, but he would not despair of succeeding, though he admitted that it might be necessary to raise salaries for that purpose. He

would prefer having to deal with that question than to leave the Clause as it stood in the Bill without the Amendment.

On Question, that the proposed words stand part of the Clause, the House divided: Contents, 23; Not-Contents, 62.

CONTENTS.

Canterbury, L. Abp.

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Carrington, E. [*Teller.*]

Northbrook, E.

Spencer, E.

Stamford, E.

Gordon, V. (*E. Aberdeen.*)

Chichester, L. Bp.

Gloucester, L. Bp.

St. Albans, L. Bp.]

Winchester, L. Bp.

Burghclere, L.

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Devonshire, D. (*L. President.*)

Norfolk, D. (*E. Marshal.*)

Grafton, D.

Portland, D.

Wellington, D.

Camden, M.

Pembroke and Montgomery, E.
(*L. Steward.*)

Bathurst, E.

Cawdor, E.

Dartmouth, E.

Doncaster, E. (*D. Buccleuch
and Queensberry.*)

Dudley, E.

Faversham, E.

Haddington, E.

Hardwicke, E.

Mayo, E.

Morley, E.

Onslow, E.

Powis, E.

Saint Germans, E.

Stradbroke, E.

Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)

Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]

Yarborough, E.

Cross, V.

Falkland, V.

Goschen, V.

Knutsford, V.

Allerton, L.

Ashbourne, L.

Belhaven and Stenton, L.

Belper, L.

Boyle, L. (*E. Cork and
Ortery.*)

Calthorpe, L.

Churchill, L. [*Teller.*]

Clements, L. (*E. Leitrim.*)

Clonbrock, L.

Colchester, L.

Coleridge, L.

Culville of Culross, L.

Congleton, L.

Davey, L.

Dawnay, L. (*V. Downe.*)

Foley, L.

James, L.

Killanin, L.

Kintore, L. (*E. Kintore.*)

Lamington, L.

Lawrence, L.

Lindley, L.

Mostyn, L.

Newton, L.

Robertson, L.

St. Levan, L.

Sinclair, L.

Tredegar, L.

Ventry, L.

Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)

Windsor, L.

Wrottesley, L.

Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

Amendment negatived.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved an Amendment to provide that magistrates' clerks should be required to secure the consent of the licensing justices to their preparing notices or forms. A solicitor to a great brewing company had stated not long ago that he never prepared any notices or forms himself, but always gave this work to the justices' clerks in the various districts, in order, of course, to secure their weight upon his side. That being so, it should, at the very least, be obligatory on the clerk to let those who had the decision in the matter know that he had been employed to draw up the notices.

Amendment moved—

"In line 33, after 'preparation,' to insert 'with the consent of the licensing justices.'" —(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER said the Amendment was not a very important one. The Government thought that, for the convenience of everybody, the clerks should be allowed to prepare the notices and forms without any application to the magistrates.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said he did not propose to press the Amendment to a division, but he was not convinced by the noble Lord's argument.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 12 agreed to.

Clause 13 amended and agreed to.

Clause 14 agreed to.

Clause 15:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved to insert words to deal with the question of bogus agreements, where, on a proposed transfer, one agreement was produced to the magistrates, while the agreement which in fact governed the conditions under which the House was held was kept in the background. His object was to compel the production of documents which were now often withheld, and to put an end to bogus agreements.

Amendment moved—

“In page 8, line 26, to leave out from the second ‘the’ to ‘and’ in line 27, and to insert ‘tenancy, agreement, or other assurance under which the licensed premises are to be vested in the applicant.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER thought the clause as it stood secured the object, the justices having statutory powers of calling for any agreement.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

LORD DAVEY pointed out that the document under which the licence was transferred was frequently not an agreement but the lease itself, which was not, strictly speaking, an agreement.

Amendment moved—

“In line 26, after the word ‘agreement,’ to insert ‘or other assurance.’”—(*Lord Davey.*)

Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved the insertion of a proviso. He understood that, in the view of the Government, the words were unnecessary, but he proposed them in order to make impossible the existence of these secret agreements which were the governing thing between the owner of the house and the tenant.

Amendment moved—

“In line 33, after ‘both,’ to insert ‘the tenancy, agreement, or other assurance to be produced under this sub-section shall be deemed to contain the terms of the proposed transferee’s interest in the licensed premises, and any additional, subsequent, or collateral agreement or defeasance shall be void and of no effect.’”—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD COLERIDGE hoped the right rev. prelate would insist on his Amendment, the insertion of which would enable the real relationship between the parties to be known, and would make clear to the justices the grounds on which they were granting a licence.

LORD BELPER said he could not accept the Amendment, which was in the nature of a restriction between landlord and tenant.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said that the desire was to make it clear that the magistrates had the whole agreement before them, and that nothing was being kept back.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) said that this was an interference with the ordinary course of business. If the applicant, for example, did not produce a mortgage the Amendment would make that mortgage void.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 15, as amended, agreed to

Clause 16:—

LORD HENEAGE moved an Amendment—

“Providing that, where there is no sitting of a Petty Sessional Court within ‘a reasonable time previous to the day,’ an occasional licence may be given by any two justices acting for the Division and sitting together.”

He moved that Amendment to take the place of the words of the Bill which fixed the limit at “seven days.” In some few exceptional cases the Bill would bear very hardly on the licence-holder. For instance, in the case of a cricket match, which had to be arranged hurriedly, a licence would be required in order to supply a luncheon on the field, and that could not be obtained if a Petty Sessional Court were to be held within seven days of the application. He asked for some relaxation to be given to the proviso.

Amendment moved—

"In lines 23 and 24, to leave out 'seven days of the time' and to insert 'a reasonable time previous to the day.'"—(*Lord Heneage*.)

THE EARL OF WEMYSS said that in Scotland, in a case such as the noble Lord had referred to, the signature of two justices was sufficient for an occasional licence.

LORD BELPER said he was unable to accept the Amendment owing to its vagueness. But he would be willing to alter the time from seven to three days, which he thought would meet even the most extreme case.

LORD HENEAGE accepted the suggested alteration.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In line 23, to leave out 'seven' and to insert 'three.'"—(*Lord Belper*.)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 16, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved the insertion of a new clause. He said that if a man applied at present for a new licence he was bound under the law to give such notice as would render it possible for the inhabitants of the district to take any objection they liked. But if he applied for the transfer of a licence from his old premises to new premises the application was often granted without the inhabitants in the neighbourhood of the newly-licensed house having any opportunity of objecting. It was in order to meet these cases that he moved his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 7, to insert as a new clause:—17A. In respect of an application for the transfer or removal of a licence under Section 4 or Section 14 of the Alehouse Act, 1828, to other premises not theretofore licensed for the sale of the same kind of intoxicating liquor, the applicant shall give the like notices and deposit the like plans as are requisite in the case of an application for a new licence.

Provided always that in any case where licensed premises have been by fire, tempest, or other unforeseen and unavoidable calamity rendered unfit for the reception of travellers

and for the other legal purposes of an inn, the licensing justices may, in their discretion, for good cause shown, dispense with the observance of these regulations in any particular case if, in their opinion, such notices have been given as are reasonable under the circumstances of the particular case."—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester*.)

LORD BELPER said the right Rev. Prelate was inaccurate when he stated that there was no means of the inhabitants of a locality knowing that an application was being made for the transfer of a licence. The only difference in the amount of notice in the case of an application for a new licence and in that for a transfer was, that it was not necessary in the latter case to advertise in a newspaper. But in the case of a transfer it was equally necessary that, fourteen days before the application was made, notice should be served on the overseers of the parish, and on the superintendent of police, and also that on one Sunday prior to the date of the application, a notice should be affixed on the door of the new premises and on the door of the Parish Church. Therefore there was full and sufficient notice given to the people in the immediate neighbourhood. He hoped the right Rev. Prelate would not press his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 18:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved an Amendment to provide that an application for the confirmation of the grant of a licence should not be heard until twenty-one days had expired. He said it had been abundantly brought out before the Royal Commission that the confirmation of a licence had taken place on the same day as the hearing of the original application. He hoped the Amendment would be accepted, as it evidently carried out the intention of the Government.

Amendment moved--

"In page 10, line 3, to leave out from '(1) to 'confirmed,' and to insert 'an application for the confirmation of the grant of a licence shall not be heard.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester*.)

LORD BELPER accepted the Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS proposed to add a new Clause. The view taken by the trade was that if the objection was, in the opinion of the justices, frivolous or vexatious, why should they not have the power of granting costs against the objector? Under Clause 19 of this Bill any justice whose decision was appealed against was, in every case, to have his costs paid out of the county or borough funds.

Amendment moved—

"To insert as a new Clause: 'The licensing justices at the annual or adjourned licensing meeting may, in their discretion, grant costs against any objector to the renewal or transfer of a licence if the said justices consider the objection to be of a frivolous or vexatious character.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER opposed the Clause. He said he was informed that the real objection to giving this power was that the power to impose costs was never exercised except by a judicial court. Moreover, it was not desirable to limit freedom of discussion as to the propriety of renewing or transferring a licence, or to hinder people by such a provision from expressing their views as to the needs of the locality in the matter. It would be difficult, considering how much people's opinions varied on these matters, to say what was a frivolous objection.

Amendment negatived.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS said there seemed no reason why the convenience of an application for a provisional grant on the production of plans should be withheld from those applying for an off-licence. There could be no reason against such a proposal, now that all new off-licences were to be brought under the discretion of the magistrates. It therefore appeared absurd that an applicant should have first to build his premises and then apply for a licence. The inconvenience was slight when there was a limited power of refusal; with the change in the law the inconvenience would become a hardship. He hoped the noble Lord representing the Home Office would be able to see his way to accept the Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"To insert as a new Clause: 'The provisions of Section 22 of the Licensing Act, 1874, as to the provisional grant and confirmation of licences in respect of new premises for the sale of intoxicating liquors to be consumed on the premises, shall apply also to licences to sell intoxicating liquors for consumption off the premises.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER said that in the case of a grocer's licence there was no reason why the applicant should not wait till the premises were finished; it could make little difference in his chance of getting a licence. On the whole, the Government saw no reason for offering increased facilities with regard to these off-licences, which seemed to be the object of the Amendment.

Amendment negatived.

Clause 19:—

LORD BELPER moved to substitute the words "cannot be" for the words "are not" in the sentence "all cost and charges which are not recovered from any other person."

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 16, to leave out 'are not' and to insert 'cannot be.'"—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to.

LORD BELPER moved to add at the end of Clause 19 the words contained in his Amendment.

Amendment moved—

"In line 19, after 'accounts,' to insert 'The order of the Appellate Court may be made either at the sessions when the appeal is heard, or at the next ensuing sessions, and the costs may be taxed either in or out of sessions.'"—(*Lord Belper.*)

Amendment agreed to—

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 20:—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER said the Clause provided that no meeting of justices in petty or special sessions should be held on licensed premises after March, 1910. He moved the shortening of the date to 1907.

Amendment moved—

"In page 10, line 21, to leave out 'ten' and to insert 'seven.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER said the Government had no objection to this Amendment.

Amendment agreed to.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, referring to the provision that no inquest should be held on licensed premises when other suitable premises had been provided, desired to add "or are available on reasonable terms."

Amendment moved—

"In line 26, after 'provided' to insert 'or are available on reasonable terms.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER could not accept this Amendment. It would be impossible for coroners' inquests to be hung up while a search was being made to ascertain whether there were premises obtainable on reasonable terms. The Clause went quite as far as was possible in prohibiting licensed premises being used where other suitable premises were available.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 20, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 21 agreed to.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE moved to insert a new Clause on behalf of the Under Secretary of State for War. He explained that regimental canteens run by the regimental authorities themselves did not require licences or certificates from the justices, but at present canteens that were worked by civilian contractors, under agreement with the regiments concerned, did require licences. The Amendment was framed so as to avoid the necessity of regiments having to get licences when they wished to make agreements to hand over their canteens to be managed by contractors.

Amendment moved—

"To insert as a new Clause :—Notwithstanding any enactment to the contrary, it shall not be necessary for a person holding a canteen under the authority of a Secretary of State or

of the Admiralty to obtain a justice's licence or certificate to enable him to obtain or hold any excise licence for the sale of any intoxicating liquor, and an excise licence may be granted to any such person accordingly."—(*The Earl of Hardwicke.*)

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 22 agreed to.

Clause 23 amended and agreed to.

Clauses 24 and 25 agreed to.

Clause 26 :—

*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER moved to insert "if it thinks fit" after the words "any person may" in Clause 26, which provided that "where a club has been registered in pursuance of this Act a Court of summary jurisdiction, on complaint in writing by any person, may make an order directing the club to be struck off the register on all or any" of the grounds set out in the sub-sections. The object of the Amendment was, he said, merely to mark clear that the Court had a discretion in the matter.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 20, after 'may' to insert 'if it thinks fit.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER said the Government regarded the Amendment as a very necessary one, and they accepted it.

Amendment agreed to.

THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER then moved to omit Sub-section (e) "that persons are habitually admitted to the privileges of the club who are not members or entitled under the rules of the club to the privileges of members; or" and to substitute for it the words in his Amendment as one of the grounds for striking a club off the register.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out lines 29 to 31, and to insert 'that persons who are not members are habitually admitted to the club for the purpose of obtaining intoxicating liquor; or.'"—(*The Lord Bishop of Winchester.*)

LORD BELPER said he would accept the Amendment if the word "merely" was inserted after the word "club."

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*THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER would not resist the insertion, although he thought such a word as "merely" would to some extent spoil the Clause. For example, a man might urge that, if he sat down, he had gone into the club to rest, and not "merely" for the purpose of obtaining intoxicating liquor.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Drafting Amendment agreed to.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS moved the insertion of an additional ground for striking a club off the register. and said it was undeniable that off-supply at some clubs was much abused.

Amendment moved—

"In page 12, line 39, after Sub-Section (h) to insert as a new Sub-Section, (i) that abuses have arisen from the supply of intoxicating liquors to members on the premises for consumption off the premises."—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

LORD BELPER said this Amendment was covered by one of the sub-sections dealing with the proper management of the club.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining Clauses and Schedule agreed to.

Bill re-committed to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. [No. 158.]

House adjourned at a quarter before Eight o'clock till Tomorrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 21st July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS]
(STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE
THERE TO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders

which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz:—

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders
(No. 7) Bill [Lords].

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders
(No. 8) Bill [Lords].

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation
(No. 1) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time tomorrow.

CLEETHORPES IMPROVEMENT BILL,
EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL,
NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC
POWER SUPPLY BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL
[Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

SOUTH EASTERN AND LONDON,
CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS
BILL [Lords].

Verbal Amendments made (King's
consent signified); Bill read the third
time, and passed, with Amendments.

CONSETT WATER BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; a Clause
added; Amendments made; Bill to be
read the third time.

FELIXSTOWE AND WALTON IMPROVE-
MENT BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time.

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords]
[NOT AMENDED].

Considered; to be read the third time.

RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments
made; Bill to be read the third time.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL [Lords]
[NOT AMENDED].

Considered; to be read the third time.

WEARDALE AND SHILDON DISTRICT
WATER BILL [Lords].

As amended, considered; Amendments
made; Bill to be read the third time.

ABERDEEN SUBURBAN TRAMWAYS ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL (Lords),
PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWNSHIRE JOINT RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Considered ; to be read the third time upon Wednesday.

PETITIONS.

BURIAL FEES IN THE LAMBETH PARISH CEMETERY AT TOOTING.

Petition from Lambeth, for alteration of law ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against : From Kettering ; Darwen ; and Truro ; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration : From Bolney ; Bristol (two) ; Dolbenmaen ; Darwen ; Wellington ; Bury St. Edmunds ; Birstall ; East Hull ; Newport (Isle of Wight) ; Bourton ; Bradford ; and Gresford ; to lie upon the Table.

LONDON WATER BILL.

Petition from Woolwich, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE ACT, 1877.

Paper [presented 18th July] to be printed. [No. 283.]

APPLICATIONS FOR MUNICIPAL CHARTERS.

Return [presented 18th July] to be printed. [No. 284.]

SALMON FISHERIES (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report of the Commissioners on Salmon Fisheries (Part I., Report and Maps) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1902, with Appendices [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

IMPERIAL REVENUE (COLLECTION AND EXPENDITURE) (GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 14th April ; *Mr. Joseph A. Pease*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 285.]

COURT OF PROBATE DIVISION (HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE) (IRELAND).

Annual Account presented, of Receipts and Disbursements for the year ended 31st December, 1901 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table.

METROPOLITAN WATER COMPANIES (ACCOUNTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th June, *Mr. Grant Lawson*] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 286.]

ALKALI, ETC., WORKS REGULATION ACTS, 1881 AND 1892.

Copy presented, of Thirty - eighth Annual Report on Alkali, etc., Works, by the Chief Inspector, being for 1901 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 287.]

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

Copy presented, of Census of Ireland, Part II., General Report, with Illustrative Maps and Diagrams, Tables, and Appendix [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

NAVAL WORKS.

Copy presented, of Statement showing the total estimated cost of each Work, the estimated expenditure thereon to 31st March, 1902, and the amount available to meet expenditure in 1902-3, together with the expected date of completion [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Report No. 357 (Northern Territories of the Gold Coast, Annual Report for 1901) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2857 to 2859 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

TRAINING COLLEGES (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "showing (1) the names of Training colleges in Ireland, whether under the management of the National Board or under local management, on behalf of which application was made to the Commissioners of National Education within the last three years to sanction an increase in the number of students (King's scholars) which each such college was authorised to admit to training; (2) the number of students (King's scholars) which each such college was authorised to admit when the above application was made in each case; (3) the increased number of students (King's scholars) asked to be authorised for admission in each case, and the result of each application; and (4) the names of the Training Colleges that applied for equipment grants within the last three years, the sums asked for, and the result of the application in each case."—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

India—Agricultural Shows.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the success which has attended the holding of horse shows in India, will the Government consider the expediency of holding annual agricultural shows in suitable centres with a view to encourage agriculture and educate the people in improved methods of farming.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The utility of agricultural shows for the purposes mentioned by the hon. Member is already recognised by the Indian Governments; they are held in the districts whenever the support and co-operation of the public can be counted on, and there is a reasonable chance of results commensurate with the labour and expense of organising them.

Indian Irrigation Commission.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will consider the expediency of laying upon the Table of the House the Report of the Irrigation Commission which visited India last year.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The Irrigation Commission has not yet completed its inquiry. When the Report is submitted the expediency of laying it on the Table of the House will be considered.

Exports and Imports.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, having regard to the fact that the excess of the imports of foreign goods over the exports of British goods amounted in the six months ending 30th June, 1902, to £92,545,000, will he state what steps His Majesty's Government has taken or has in contemplation to remedy this state of matters.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I am not prepared to admit that the excess of the imports of foreign goods over the exports of British goods, which has continued for many years, is in itself an evil calling for the application of a remedy by His Majesty's Government.

Pauper Domicile—Halifax-Glasgow Dispute.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the action of the Inspector of the Poor of the Glasgow Parish in removing from Glasgow to Halifax a family of eight paupers named Collins, in view of the fact that the statement of Charles Collins that he was born in Halifax was shown by the Halifax Guardians to be incorrect; if he can take any steps to prevent ratepayers of Halifax from being compelled to maintain those eight paupers in the absence of evidence of the man's birth in that parish; if he can say why the paupers were removed before the Scotch Local Government Board had replied to the protest of the Halifax Guardians, and why the appeal of the latter body was not allowed; and if, in case the guardians send the family back to Glasgow (as the man desires), he will give instructions that no prosecution of the man shall be ordered.

(*Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.*) The pauper was removed in terms of Section 2 of the Poor Removal Act, 1862, and the Local Government Board for Scotland have no

power under the Act of 1898, as the Secretary for Scotland is advised, to review the question of fact on which the Court proceeded in granting the warrant of removal. Assuming the fact to be correct, there were no grounds whatever which would have justified the Local Government Board in sustaining an appeal.

Bedwellty Workhouse Chaplain.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the neglect of the Bedwellty Board of Guardians to appoint a chaplain to the union workhouse, as required by the Poor Law Consolidated Order, Art. 153; and, whether, seeing that the spiritual interests of the inmates are left in the hands of the Ebbw Vale Ministers' Union, who appear to hold only occasional services, he proposes to take any steps to enforce the law, so that the inmates of the workhouse shall enjoy ministrations of religion as required by the Order.

(*Answered by Mr. Long.*) I am aware of the circumstances referred to in the first paragraph of the Question. I am informed that the Vicar of Tredegar or one of his curates holds a service in the workhouse once a week, and that the Nonconformist ministers of Tredegar and Ebbw Vale have made arrangements for the holding of services at the workhouse every Sunday afternoon, for which purpose a rota of ministers has been drawn up. The arrangement, I am told, is that if the minister appointed to attend cannot do so he shall find a substitute, but I understand that on a recent occasion a substitute did not attend. I understand also that some of the inmates are allowed to go out on Sundays to attend church or chapel. It does not seem to me to be necessary that I should interfere in the matter.

Postal Dispute at Carrickaleese, Cavan.

MR. M'GOVERN (Cavan, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, is he aware that on the 27th March, 1902, a letter addressed Miss M. O'Reilly, Carrickaleese, Ballyconnell, was delivered to Margaret Reilly, Carrickaleese, by a rural postman of Ballyconnell Post Office, and that when Margaret Reilly opened the letter she found it contained a money

order for £12 payable to Mary Reilly, of Carrickaleese; that Margaret Reilly thereupon handed back to the rural postman the letter and order and told him it was for Mary Reilly, and that when the postman arrived at Mary Reilly's residence, in Carrickaleese, she had died about an hour previously, and that he refused to give the letter to any of her friends; and will he state whether this postman has been asked for any explanation as to what he has done with this letter; and will the postal authorities make inquiry as to whether this money order for £12 has been paid, and, if so, to whom.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

A letter addressed, "Miss M. Reilly, Carrickaleese," was, as indicated in the hon. Member's Question, delivered to a Miss Margaret Reilly, who, finding it was not for her, returned it to the postman. The letter, which was not for Mary Reilly, and did not contain a money order payable to her, was subsequently delivered to the person for whom it was intended.

China—British Consular Service.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Foreign Office has received a Report from Mr. Tower upon the British Consular Service in China; and, if so, will he state the substance of this Report, and say whether it is the intention of the Government to act upon its suggestions.

(*Answered by Viscount Cranborne.*) A Report has been received from Mr. Tower on the Consular Service in China. The Report is a valuable one and the suggestions contained in it will be very useful to the Secretary of State, but it is not intended to publish its contents at present.

Trawling in Clyde Estuary.

MR. WORSLEY-TAYLOR (Lancashire, Blackpool): To ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, whether he is aware that under the Herring Fishery (Scotland) Act, 1899, British trawlers are excluded from a fishing ground of about 600 square miles in the estuary of the Clyde, and from other grounds on the coast of

Scotland; that these grounds are open to, and fished by, foreign trawlers, who sell their catch in English ports; and that, in order to escape from the provisions of this Act, British trawlers have been transferred to foreign flags, and now fish the said grounds under those flags; and whether he will consider the desirability of taking steps to place British trawlers on the same footing as foreign trawlers.

(Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.)

The Secretary for Scotland is aware of the provisions of the Act referred to, and of the difficulty occasioned by the exclusion of British vessels from areas open to foreign trawlers; he is also aware of the allegation that British trawlers have been transferred to foreign flags in order to escape from the provisions of the Act, but he is not aware that this applies to the area in the Clyde specially referred to in the Question. Any action in the matter is subject to international considerations; but the position of the Clyde area will be steadily kept in view as well as that of the other protected waters.

Norfolk Evening School Grant.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): To ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the grants for several evening schools in the County of Norfolk for the last evening school session have not yet been paid; whether there is any special reason for this delay; and whether, having regard to the necessity of securing the equipment of the schools for the forthcoming session, he will expedite payment.

(Answered by Sir John Gorst.) There are ninety-three evening schools in the County of Norfolk; applications for payment have been received on account of eighty-four schools; payment of the grant has been made by the Board of Education in respect of eighty-two schools and two applications are under consideration.

South African War—Conveyance Home of Invalid Soldiers.

MR. TANKERVILLE CHAMBERLAYNE (Southampton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he

will arrange that invalid soldiers and others arriving at Southampton from South Africa shall be conveyed to their destinations by the shortest route from that port, seeing that the present route, via Andover and Cheltenham, involves many hours extra travelling to those whose homes are in Ireland, Scotland, or the East of England.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

Longer routes, when used, are employed for the purpose of avoiding transfer in London and to utilise through carriages, whereby change of trains and waiting at junctions is avoided. The particular route mentioned is generally used for the conveyance of parties to the North of Ireland, midland counties, and Scotland, and the railway company invariably gives a special train or through carriage for parties of twenty and upwards.

Colonial Troops at Alexandra Park—Case of Assault.

MR. COHEN (Islington, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the assault committed on a black soldier by some of the Colonial troops stationed at the Alexandra Palace, on the 10th instant; and will he say whether steps have been taken to punish the offenders, and to compensate the victim for an assault which necessitated his being taken to the hospital tent.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)

This case is still under investigation.

Imperial Yeomanry—Furlough.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state why the Imperial Yeomanry employed in 1899 were not given a furlough of thirty days, as was the case with the Yeomanry employed in 1900 and 1901.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) My hon. friend has been misinformed. All Imperial Yeomen on the higher rate of pay have been treated alike as regards furlough; none of them have been given thirty days.

Volunteers—Company Training.

MR. HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that in the greater number of Volunteer regiments the new regulations have been disregarded as regards company training, and that the majority of regiments are still carrying on company drills in drill halls as formerly; and will he see that some marked differentiation is made between the corps which have thoroughly carried out the new regulations and those which have not done so.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
No information to this effect has reached me.

South Africa—Military Officers and Political Controversies.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire: Rushcliffe): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the military commandant at Cradock, Cape Colony, Captain H. Wilson, appeared at a public meeting which was held there on 20th June last for the delivery of an address by Mr. Douglass (one of the Cape Ministers) against the suggested suspension of the Cape Constitution, and towards the close of the meeting made a speech in which he accused Mr. Douglass of deliberate untruth; and whether care will be taken that commandants and other military officers do not take part in public meetings of a political nature or in any way mix in the discussion of political questions.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
I have no information on this matter, but will make inquiry.

Martial Law.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now state when martial law and the rules and regulations based upon it will come to an end in the self-governing Colonies of the Cape and Natal.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
Martial law is being held in abeyance in Cape Colony, and is only to be employed at the instigation of the Cape Government. As regards Natal the principal restrictions have been already removed. The subject of the total abolition of

martial law is being carefully considered by the authorities concerned.

Breaking up of Refugee Camps.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether persons who have been confined in the camps established by the military authorities in South Africa on grounds which may be regarded as political have now permission to leave and rejoin their families and homes; whether there is now free communication between those still in the camps and the outside world by letter and otherwise; and is the breaking up of such camps progressing as fast as circumstances permit.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
The camps are being reduced as rapidly as possible, and all persons able to maintain themselves have been allowed to leave. The camps are being used as bases of supply and starting points for the repatriation of the burghers. As far as I am aware there is free communication with persons outside the camps.

Volunteers and the Coronation.

CAPTAIN BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether those Volunteer regiments in the London Brigades who have been ordered to train at Salisbury Plain on the 2nd August will be allowed to return on the 8th, instead of the 9th, should the Coronation take place on that day.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
If these Volunteers go into camp on Saturday, 2nd August, as proposed, they will finish the period of 144 hours required on Friday, 8th August, and can return to London on Friday night. The case of any Volunteer who does not complete the full period of 144 hours can be considered under Paragraph 577A of the Volunteer Regulations.

Education Act, 1901—Proposed Renewal.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire) W.R., Morley): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury what steps the Government propose to take to re-enact the Education Act of 1901 for a further twelve months to ensure the continuance of the evening schools, science and art classes, and pupil teacher centres after the expiration of the Act of 1901; and whether its scope can be enlarged to

permit of the establishment of new classes for the coming winter.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) A Bill is now before Parliament which will enable schools or classes dealt with by the legislation of last year to be continued.

Communications between Imperial Government and Transvaal and Orange Free State Governments.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, during the war in South Africa, the Government received any communication whatever from either the Governments of the Transvaal and Orange Free State which have not yet been laid on the Table of the House.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) I understand that the following appears to be the only correspondence which has not been laid before Parliament:—

State Secretary, South African Republic,
Pretoria, to Lord Salisbury.

(Received, Foreign Office, 7.30 a.m., 5th
November, 1899.)

Telegram.

(Translation.)

As there are now many English troops here prisoners of war, and your Government prevents the importation of food stuffs into this Republic, I ask you to give instructions for provisions to be allowed to reach the prisoners; the blame will be on you if we, to our shame, should be driven to feed the prisoners, the number of whom is greater than had been anticipated, on mealie porridge, which has not yet been done.

Mr. Chamberlain to the State Secretary,
Pretoria.

(Sent 4.15 p.m., 16th November, 1899.)

Telegram.

Three days before the receipt of your telegram respecting food supplies Her Majesty's Government had given instructions for the removal of the restrictions on the importation of food stuffs into the South African Republic which had been imposed by the British authorities in South Africa.

State Secretary, Pretoria, to Lord Salisbury,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, London.

(Received, 11.50 p.m., 20th November, 1899.

(Translation.) Pretoria, 11.25 a.m.,
20th November, 1899.

Telegram.

† I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received the following telegram, signed, "Chamberlain":—

† No answer was sent to this telegram.

Begins: 16th November. Three days before the receipt of your telegram respecting food supplies, Her Majesty's Government had given instructions for the removal of the restrictions on the importation of food stuffs into the South African Republic, which had been imposed by the British authorities in South Africa. Ends.

I presume that this is an answer to my telegram of the 2nd instant to your Excellency.

This Government would be glad to learn from your Excellency whether the declaration in the telegram is true.

(2.15.) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South African War—General Inquiry.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is now in a position to state when the Royal Commission to inquire into the late war in South Africa will be appointed, also the composition of the Committee and the scope of its investigations.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The answer to the hon. and gallant Member's Question is in the negative; but effort is being made to complete the necessary arrangements.

Remount Inquiry—Studdert Case Papers.

MR. M'KENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, on the appointment of a Court of Inquiry to inquire into the action of any Department of the War Office, the practice exists to refer to the Court the papers relating to a case which *prima facie* should be the subject of inquiry; and, if so, whether he will refer the papers in the Studdert case, now that; is no longer *sub judice* to the Court of Inquiry on the action of the Remount Department.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): It is not the practice to refer War Office official papers to such a Court of Inquiry. The Court itself decides what papers to ask for. The Studdert case has nothing whatever to do with the Court of Inquiry on General Truman and his Department, who were not concerned in it.

Sandhurst College—Incendiary Fires and Disturbances — Indiscriminate Punishment of Cadets.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state when the investigation undertaken by the Commander-in-Chief into the rustication of Sandhurst cadets will be over; and when he will be in a position to communicate its results to this House.

MR. BRODRICK: I cannot at present state as to when I shall be in a position to give further information on this subject. No time is being lost.

India Office Reception—Cost to India.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Auditor of the India Office was consulted as to the legality and propriety of charging India with the whole cost of the reception at the India Office on the 4th instant; and whether the question of the fair apportionment of this charge between the Indian and the Imperial Treasuries will be submitted for the arbitration of the Lord Chief Justice.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): As to the legality of the charges to which the Question refers, there can be no doubt whatever; as to its propriety, it is no part of the duty of the Auditor of the Accounts of the Secretary of State in Council to give an opinion. The arbitration of the Lord Chief Justice is to be resorted to only in cases where there is a difference of opinion between the Treasury and the India Office as to the proper incidence of a charge; and in this case there is no such difference of opinion.

The Latin League and the Mediterranean—Russia and Morocco.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have any information relative to communications between the Governments of Italy, France, and Spain, involving overtures for the establishment between those three Powers of a so-called Latin League

for regulating or acting upon the political situation in the Mediterranean; if so, whether that information shows that the suggested league proposes to include within its action the future of Morocco; and whether he can say if the communications between the three Powers in question have been submitted to the Government of Russia.

*THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): His Majesty's Government have no knowledge of any such communications.

Waima Arbitration.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is in a position to inform the House of the nature of the award of the arbitrator in the Waima case.

*LORD CRANBORNE: The arbitrator in the Waima case awarded His Majesty's Government the sum of £9,000.

Metropolitan Police Uniform.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, with a view to saving expense to the public, as well as increasing the comfort to the men, he will consider the advisability of issuing from time to time one pair of serge trousers to correspond with the serge jackets of the Metropolitan Police in lieu of a pair of cloth trousers.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon): The trousers supplied to the police for summer wear are made of thin cloth, and I am not aware of any general desire that serge should be substituted. Nor do I think it desirable that this should be done, having regard to the exigencies of police service, and to the fact that the men are exposed to all weathers and frequently to rapid and considerable changes of temperature.

Metropolitan Police Pensioners— Coronation Service.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state what arrangements have been made with reference to the pensioners of the Metropolitan Police who undertook to do duty for a period of twenty-eight days during the Coronation festivities.

*MR. RITCHIE: The fixed period for which pensioners volunteered for service having expired, they have all left the force.

Auchnashellach Deer Forest.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he can explain why the acreage of the deer forest of Auchnashellach, Ross-shire, is stated in the last Return issued by the Crown Agent for Scotland as not known, whereas in the Parliamentary Return issued in 1891 the acreage is given as 33,250 acres; and will he have some inquiry made with a view to ascertain the present approximate acreage.

*THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to the hon. Member on Thursday last.†

MR. WEIR: But I am now asking a definite Question as to a specific deer forest. The right hon. Gentleman will not reply. Will you, Mr. Speaker, tell me what steps I may take in order to induce him to answer.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must be aware that he has already received a general answer which applies to this Question.

MR. WEIR: But my Question is as to a deer forest of 30,000 acres or more which has apparently vanished.

Scottish Royal Proclamation.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate, as representing the Secretary for Scotland, whether the Secretary for Scotland has received a memorial from the Convention of Royal Burghs asking that the ancient

rights and privileges of the Royal Burghs in regard to Royal Proclamations be continued to them; and if it is the intention of the Department to take any steps in the matter with the view of conserving the rights of the burghs.

*MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: A memorial was received on the 7th instant and will be duly considered, but it is not possible to make any further statement in regard to it.

Education in Wales.

MR. KENYON (Denbigh): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether, in view of alterations which may become necessary if the Education Bill passes into law, he will lay upon the Table of the House a *précis* of the schemes which have received the sanction of the Department under the Intermediate Education Act for Wales, showing the composition of the county governing bodies and the county school Committees in the different counties in Wales.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): Yes, the Return will be given if moved for.

Ireland and the Equivalent Grant.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any determination has been arrived at as to the equivalent grant to be made to Ireland to balance the additional grant to be given in aid of public education in England.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): It was decided by Parliament in the legislation of 1897 that the expenditure from the Exchequer on education in the three kingdoms should depend on their educational requirements, and not on any system of equivalent grants. If the Irish Government should have any proposals to make with regard to further expenditure on education in Ireland, of course the Government would be disposed to act justly by Ireland in the matter. But I may add that it does not follow that because a fresh grant from the Exchequer is made for a

† See page 521.

particular object in one of the three kingdoms, that a grant should be made for the same object in the others. For example, we have proposed this session to impose a considerable liability on the Exchequer for the purchase of congested estates and for marine works in Ireland, without making any similar proposals for Great Britain.

Gun Licences in Ireland.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General for Ireland whether he is aware that at Naas Petty Sessions on the 7th of July, Mr. James Behan, of Blackhall, County Kildare, was prosecuted by the Supervisor of Inland Revenues for carrying a gun on his lands, for the purpose of shooting rabbits, without a licence and fined £2 10s., although he had a 10s. gun licence from the Excise, and was an occupier of the land, at Blackhall within the meaning of the Ground Game Act, 1880; will he explain why the presiding magistrate stated that the 10s. licence only allowed a man to carry a gun for the purpose of killing vermin; and will he take steps for the fine to be returned to this man.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): It is not the fact that Mr. Behan had an Excise gun licence in force on the 21st May, the occasion to which the prosecution related. At the hearing Mr. Behan admitted the offence, but the fine of £2 10s. imposed by the magistrates was subsequently, on their recommendation, reduced by the Board of Inland Revenue to £1. The Board see no reason for any further mitigation.

MR. LEAMY: The right hon. Gentleman has not said why the presiding Magistrate stated that the 10s. licences only allowed a man to carry a gun to kill vermin, and not to shoot rabbits.

MR. ATKINSON: That was merely an abstract opinion. I do not concur with it, but I do not think it a matter of importance.

MR. LEAMY: Well, I think it is.

School Teachers and the Irish Language.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the rules

for the examination of teachers in the Irish language under the Board of National Education in Ireland could be assimilated to the rules for the examination of teachers in the Welsh language under the Board of Education in England, so as to have three separate programmes of examination, one on entrance to the training colleges, one at the end of the first year of training, and one at the end of the second year.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): The Commissioners of National Education have had before them the question of prescribing programmes for examination in Irish, but they have not yet come to a final decision on the matter. The suggestion in the Question has not been lost sight of.

Newtownhamilton Head Constable.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Head Constable Adderley, of Newtownhamilton, County Armagh, is in the habit of collecting numbers of Protestants every Sunday in the Police Barracks for religious demonstrations; and will he say whether such a practice is in accordance with the police regulations, and, if not, will he direct its discontinuance.

MR. WYNDHAM: On Sunday, the 13th instant a few friends spent the evening in social intercourse with the head constable and his wife on the eve of her departure for a holiday. It is to be regretted that a public question so inquisitorial and so inaccurate in its suggestion should have been founded on an occurrence of so private and unimpeachable a character.

Warrenpoint Demonstration.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in answer to a requisition from the magistrates of Warrenpoint and Rostrevor for 100 extra police for duty on the 12th July last, 600 police and 200 soldiers were sent to Warrenpoint; and whether he will state the grounds upon which a force, so largely exceeding that considered sufficient by the local magistrates to keep the peace, was employed.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down Co., S.): With whom, in the event of a serious disturbance, would the responsibility have rested—the local magistrates or the Chief Secretary?

MR. WYNDHAM: That is a hypothetical question. In reply to the Question on the Paper I have to say that the magistrates at Warrenpoint and Rostrevor recommended a force of 150 police. An officer from headquarters was sent down to inquire on the spot as to the arrangements necessary for the maintenance of good order on the occasion. He received information which made it clear that the extra force suggested by the magistrates would be totally inadequate, and the Inspector General decided that at least 400 police and 400 military for Rostrevor, and 100 police for Warrenpoint, would be necessary. Those forces were accordingly, with the approval of the Government, ordered, and the meeting at Rostrevor having been proclaimed, the Inspector General was of opinion that this force was still requisite for the purpose of enforcing the Proclamation in respect to Rostrevor, and maintaining the peace both there and at Warrenpoint, where a meeting was permitted. He is still satisfied that the course adopted was necessary.

Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he intends to take any steps to have the balance on the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, now close on £100,000, distributed in relief of rates.

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. Section 58 (5) of the Local Government Act, 1898, provides that any credit balances on the Local Taxation Account shall be accumulated and applied to meet any future deficiency, and subject thereto, to be applied in such manner as Parliament directs.

Newry Troubles.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the local magistrates have refused informations in the case of the Orangeman who

was prosecuted at Newry on Monday on a charge of firing with intent to maim; and, seeing that the accused was identified by four policemen and that no evidence was called for the defence, whether the Government intends to take further steps in this case.

MR. WYNDHAM: None of the witnesses examined could prove that the accused fired with intent to maim. Such a charge is not proved by mere evidence of identification. The question of instituting further proceedings in the case is at present under consideration.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received any official reports from the police as to an attack upon a Presbyterian clergyman in Newry by a Nationalist mob on Saturday last; and whether he will make inquiry into this case.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir. No such attack was made.

MR. MACVEAGH: Did not the publication of this story in the Belfast newspapers result in a serious disturbance in the district?

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Irish Congested Districts Board Report.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state when the Report of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland for the year ending 31st March, 1902, will be published.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Report, I hope, will be laid on the Table this week.

MR. POWER: Will the Report be in the hands of hon. Members before we are asked to discuss the Vote?

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not know when the Vote is to be taken, but the Report will be circulated in the course of the next few days.

Clifden Harbour Accommodation.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if his attention has been drawn to the resolution of the Clifden District Council declaring the necessity for a good harbour at Doughbeg, Clifden; if he will take care when the Marine Works (Ireland) Bill becomes Law that the claims of Clifden will have consideration; will he say if the claim of Clifden to harbour accommodation has been considered by the Government since Clifden was connected with the Irish Railway system; and if these claims were pressed on him when he visited that town.

MR. WYNNDHAM: Yes, Sir. But until the Bill becomes law the allocation of the money provided by it cannot profitably be discussed. The reasonable claims of Clifden will be considered with due regard to the claims from other localities, and to the amount of money to be made available.

Labourers' Cottages in the Nenagh Union.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been directed to a resolution of the Nenagh District Council with reference to the report received from Mr. Coffey, Local Government Inspector, dealing with four applications for cottages and plots from labourers in the Castletown Division of Nenagh Union; whether he is aware that the Council by their resolution disagree with the grounds on which the inspector based his report, and whether having regard to the fact that they are at present living in hovels, and the special circumstances of the case of John M'Carthy, he will request the inspector to reconsider these cases.

MR. WYNNDHAM: The resolution assumes that the applications were rejected because the applicants worked in the slate quarries. But this is not so. Two cases were rejected on the ground that no evidence was produced, as required by the Act, to prove that the existing houses of the applicants were unfit for habitation. A third was disallowed because there is already a cottage

in the locality occupied by a woman who is reputedly wealthy. And in the fourth case, it was found that the additional half-acre plot proposed would interfere with an entrance to the land of the occupier.

Lord Lieutenant's Allowance.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in addition to the statutory annual salary of £20,000 a year, any allowance or gratuity to an incoming Lord Lieutenant is made; and, if so, will he state its amount, and whether it is payable under any, and, if so, what statutory provision, and out of what public fund is it provided; if not secured by statute, will he undertake that it will be discontinued.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Lord Lieutenant receives on appointment an allowance of the mysterious sum of £2,769 4s. 8d., which, I understand, is equivalent to £3,000 in Irish money. It is paid out of the Civil Contingency Fund. The payment is customary, and not statutory. Parliament votes the sum, and the amount paid for civil contingencies is recouped by a Vote in the next session.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: If the Lord Lieutenant be a gentleman of large wealth, does this allowance go to him? Will it be included in a Supplementary Estimate?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It will come on next session.

Irish University Commission.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state when the final Report of the Irish University Commission will be presented.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry I have not been able to obtain an answer to the Question, but if the hon. Gentleman will put it on a later day I hope to be able to give him the information.

MR. DILLON: I will repeat it this day week.

Cork Court House and the Irish United League.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I wish to ask the Chief Secretary whether his attention has been called to the fact that at the meeting of the North Irish League Convention, held the other day in County Cork in the County Council chamber, immediately after the meeting had assembled the High Sheriff of the County appeared and stated that he had received within the preceding quarter of an hour a telegraphic order of the authorities to prevent the holding of the meeting. He wished to ask whether those orders came from the right hon. Gentleman and had his authority.

MR. WYNDHAM: I had, as the hon. Member admits, no notice of the Question and the official report of the proceedings reached me only this morning. I should be sorry, without further examination, to pronounce an opinion which may reflect on any remissness in the discharge of his duty by any person. But in my opinion a grave scandal occurred at Cork from the fact that such a meeting was attempted at all in the Court House. I may say now that the law is that the Court House is in the custody of the Sheriff, and that it can only be lent by him to the County Council.

MR. REDDY (King's Co., Birr): They belong to the people.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Court House can only be given to the County Council when such transfer does not interfere with the administration of justice, and it can only be given to the County Council for the performance of the proper duties of the County Council, and not for any political gathering of any kind.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I did not ask the right hon. Gentleman for any expression of opinion. I asked, as a matter of fact—if the right hon. Gentleman tells me he requires notice, I will give it to him formally—but I ask him whether the instructions the Sheriff received by telegram a quarter of an hour before we met were sent by him and with his authority.

MR. WYNDHAM: The first communication reached me officially this morning. I have therefore answered the Question, and I felt it my duty to add my opinion of what occurred.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: But that is not a definite answer to a definite question.

MR. WYNDHAM: If the first official information only reached me this morning, how could I have sent instructions?

Limerick and Tralee Mails.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether he is aware that since the 1st June last the despatch night mail leaves Rathkeale and other towns on the route between Limerick and Tralee about an hour earlier than formerly; and seeing that this causes inconvenience to the public, will he state whether he intends to take any steps to prevent it.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): It is the case that the night mail despatch from Rathkeale and other towns on the Limerick and Tralee line is now made earlier than formerly. As explained to the hon. Member in answer to previous questions, the Postmaster General was not able to come to terms with the railway company, and the mail service now afforded is the best practicable under the circumstances.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: As I am of opinion that the Postmaster General is to blame in this matter, I shall raise the question on the Estimates.

Fiscal Policy with the Colonies.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, with reference to the approaching resignation of Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, whether it is the intention of the Government to adhere to his fiscal policy as to the Colonies.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware that there is any ground for believing that any policy, such as has

been suggested by the Government of which my right hon. friend is a Member, will be departed from when he has left it.

Women and Intermediate Education.

MR. KENYON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether, seeing that in most of the schemes framed for the administration of the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, it is provided that a proportion of women shall be appointed on the county governing bodies, he will see that, in the event of the County Councils availing themselves of the option reserved to them in Clause 12, subsection (6), of the Education Bill, of submitting a fresh scheme in lieu of continuing the county governing bodies, similar provision shall be possible.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the Bill, as already drawn, will meet my hon. friend's view. There is nothing in it to prevent the solution he desires.

Education Act, 1901—Proposed Renewal.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether his attention has been called to the Education Act (1901) (Renewal) Bill, read the first time last Thursday, and standing for Second Reading tonight. And whether, in order to obviate the difficulty created by the expiration on 31st July of the operations of The Education Act, 1901, the Government will take steps to ensure its passing into law before 31st July.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am aware that this Bill has been introduced by the hon. Member, and I should be glad to see it passed without controversy or difficulty.

Ministers and Questions.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, having regard to the delay of the business of the House of Commons on Wednesday and Thursday last by the failure of Ministers of the Crown in punctual attendance to answer Questions, with reference to matters relating to their Departments, in the time allotted to the delivery of oral answers

to Questions, whether he will endeavour to ensure for the future the punctual attendance of Ministers at Question time.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am aware that it is extremely desirable that both those who ask and those who answer questions should be punctual, and I trust that no serious inconvenience has ensued from any lapse which may have occurred from the high standard which has been maintained.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The Question I put on the Paper has been altered. I want to know what explanation the right hon. Gentleman has to offer of the delay.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I presume, Sir, the explanation in each case is different.

Expiring School Boards

MR. LODER (Brighton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, whether any means exist by which the necessity for holding school board elections this autumn may be obviated; and, if not, whether the Government propose to bring in a Bill or, take any other steps to postpone these elections pending the passing of the Education Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In answer to my hon. friend, I have to say that there would be no objection to introducing into the Education Bill an amendment or a new clause rendering School Board elections unnecessary; but I doubt whether that clause would be of any practical import, or would be in time to deal with cases which may arise, indeed, must arise, next November. As regards these cases, I think they can only be dealt with in the manner suggested in a letter issued by the Department to School Boards which have communicated with them on the subject. That letter states that the Board of Education are not prepared to withdraw their usual order for triennial elections of School Boards; but if in existing circumstances triennial election is deemed to be unnecessary or undesirable, it shall be open to those interested to abstain from

making nominations for such elections, and if in consequence no members are elected those already in office can continue to serve.

Business of the Session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I should like to ask what the business will be for this week, and as we are within reasonable reach of the Adjournment perhaps the right hon. Gentleman can give us some idea of the possibilities for the remaining part of the present sittings.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Education Bill will be taken today and tomorrow (Tuesday), Wednesday, and Thursday will be devoted to Irish Supply, and Friday to the Irish financial relations. As to the remainder of the sittings, the House is aware that the chief business before it is the completion of Supply, and the continuation of its work on the Education and the London Water Bills.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Does the right hon. Gentleman contemplate giving another day for the Navy Estimates?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot say at present.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): Will the Education Bill be taken at the evening sitting tomorrow, in view of the fact that there is Private Bill Business?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope the time occupied by Private Bill Business will not eat seriously into the evening sitting. The Education Bill will be the first business after the Private Bill Business.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): How many days will be given to regular Supply, and will there be a day for Supplementary Estimates or not? Also, can the right hon. Gentleman fix a day for the Colonial Office Vote?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am anxious to take the Colonial Vote as soon as it is possible to do so, but the House is aware that the Colonial Secretary has not been fit for serious labour lately, and I should like to consult with him before I fix a day. As regards the remainder of Supply,

I propose tomorrow to make a Motion giving three days additional to Supply. My impression is that there is one Vote, at all events, of the nature of a new service, which does not come within the twenty-three days. Of course, I shall have to find an opportunity for discussing that. Roughly, five more days must be taken for Supply. This part of the session will end, I presume, on August 8, and the greater part of the time not occupied by Supply will be taken up either by the Education Bill or the Water Bill. I propose to finish the business of the year's Supply in this part of the session, and not to leave any hanging over until the autumn.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Will the Irish Local Government Act come on before the Adjournment?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, there is some Irish legislative business which will have to be taken before the conclusion of this part of the session, and that is part of it.

CASE OF SIR REDVERS BULLER— PERSONAL EXPLANATION, MR. BRODRICK.

*MR. BRODRICK: I wish, Sir, to ask for the indulgence of the House for one moment in order to make a personal explanation on a point of difference on a matter of fact which occurred between the right hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick and myself on Thursday last. In speaking in the debate with regard to Sir Redvers Buller, I had occasion to read a telegram, which I lay today on the Table of the House, in which there occurred an expression of opinion from Sir George White with regard to the time for which he could hold out in Ladysmith. With regard to that telegram the right hon. Baronet rose immediately after I sat down and said he wanted to refer to two things which I had said—

"To one," he said, "I wish to give a categorical denial on Sir Redvers Buller's behalf, and the other I wish to correct. The thing I wish to deny is that Sir Redvers Buller had knowledge as to the length of time the supplies in Ladysmith would last at the time when he wrote the dispatches after Colenso."

Now, Sir, I think it right to read both the original telegram, which I now lay, and Sir Redvers Buller's acknowledgment of it—

"Telegram from Sir George White, No. 20 P, 30th November, 1899. Flashing signals clouds seen last night for first time. Following portion only read begin—'I do not yet know which way I will come. How much longer could you hold out? From Maritzburg, from Buller. Ends.' Commencement of message and date not read. Situation here unchanged, but enemy still mounting additional guns against some of our essential positions. I have provisions for seventy days and believe I can defend Ladysmith while they last. Hay or grazing is a difficulty, I have thirty-five days supply of this at reduced ration. Small arms ammunition 5,500,000 rounds. Fifteen-pounder guns, 250 rounds per gun, 4·7 naval guns, 170 rounds per gun, twelve pounder naval guns, 270 rounds per gun, 6·3 howitzers, 430 rounds per gun. Enemy learns every plan of operations I form, and cannot discover source. I have locked up or banished every suspect, but still have undoubted evidence of betrayal. Native deserters from enemy and our native scouts report enemy much disheartened by news of advance on Free State, victory on Mooi river, and consequent retirement north of Tugela river. With regard to road of advance towards Ladysmith I could give most help to a force coming via Underbrook Hotel or Springfield, but enemy is making his positions on that side stronger daily. If force south of Tugela can effect junction with me, I believe effect will be immediate and decisive. At present cannot go large as I am completely invested and must reserve myself for one or two big efforts to co-operate with relief force. It will be greatest help to Ladysmith if relief force maintains closest possible touch with enemy. Hospital return—wounded 225, dysentery 71, enteric 15, other fevers 12, other diseases 109. Additional portion of message deciphered begins—'If you hear me attacking join in if you can. Ends.' Please repeat entire message. I will keep a good look-out and do all I can."

In reply to that message—

"From General Buller, Maritzburg, to General White, Ladysmith. No. 58, December 4th, 1899. Your number 20 P. of 30th November received. I shall have concentrated four brigades of infantry, five batteries artillery, one regiment of cavalry, 1,000 mounted Volunteers, by the 6th December and shall attack. I cannot yet say which route but will (? communicate) with you in several cipher messages before I advance. I shall also send by searchlight messages in clear, but they will be false ones sent in order to deceive enemy."

As I had no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman made his statement in all good faith, I communicated this information to him, and informed him that I should tell the House of Commons that there was no question that the message had been received.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick): Perhaps the House will be good enough to give me indulgence

while I also speak in explanation. I trust they will allow me to do so in my own behalf as well as on Sir Redvers Buller's behalf. The right hon. Gentleman, to whom I am much obliged for having told me that Sir Redvers Buller had received and acknowledged this despatch, was also good enough to say that I might like to be the first to correct the mistake. Sir Redvers Buller has also given me a written explanation, and I thought it desirable to give his explanation, leaving the right hon. Gentleman to make his statement first. The right hon. Gentleman did not quote quite fully my words of the other day. I went on to add—

"He denies that in these words—'I did not know what supplies there were. I thought at that time I had officially in writing that the garrison could not be fed beyond the end of the year.' The right hon. Gentleman has quoted the despatch, which he said was in Sir Redvers Buller's possession. I think it is a fair surmise that it could not have been the only information in his possession, or information on which he thought he could rely."

That is the full text of the words I used the other day. Sir Redvers Buller informs me that his words "I did not know what supplies there were" were not intended to mean that he had never received this message from Sir George White. I need hardly say I did not know of this message, nor would Sir Redvers Buller, I think, have been entitled to give it to me in advance; but, of course, I am sorry I should have used his words to imply that he might not have received this message, though I ask the House to notice that I put that only as a surmise. He informs me that he did receive the message, but that it differed in essential particulars from the messages he had previously received, and that he considered that he had special reasons at the time for not relying on this particular information. I hope the House will accept this statement as being made in good faith. I think that the good faith is proved by that despatch of December 16 to Sir George White, asking him if he could hold out for as long as a month. General Buller has always admitted that he was mistaken about the supplies. I only put that to the House as evidence of the good faith which he has observed.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the Borough of Leeds (North Division), in the room of the right hon. William Lawries Jackson, now Baron Allerton, called up to the House of Peers.—(*Sir William Walrond.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Licences) (Ireland) Bill; Shop Clubs Bill, with Amendments.

NEW BILLS.

EXPIRING LAWS CONTINUANCE BILL.

"To continue various expiring laws," presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 281.]

PACIFIC CABLE BILL.

"To substitute the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia for the Governments of the States of New South Wales, Queensland, and Victoria in The Pacific Cable Act, 1901," presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 282.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee).

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7:—

(250.) **SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN** said the situation had materially altered since the House was last in Committee on the Bill. There was then an idea that the Amendment of the Clause which the right hon. Gentleman had promised to lay on the Table of the House would be satisfactory to hon. Members on that side of the House who took an interest in the question. That illusion, he was sorry to say, must be dispelled. The Amendment had not given a shred of satisfaction. Besides that, the subject-matter of Clause 8 would be imported by the Government Amendments into Clause 7, which would become a new Clause rather than an amended one. It would become the

earliest step in the settlement of the most vital part of the Bill relating to the management of the denominational schools. They had been very anxious to come to some understanding that the interruption of Committee on the Bill should come at the end of Clause 7 in order that they might not approach that important question at a time when they would not have full opportunity for discussing it, but now the Clause had assumed new importance, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to say whether, in the interests of the proper discussion of the Bill, and, of the temper in which it was to be discussed, the Clause should not be postponed. The proposed Amendment did not even profess to remove the impediment that stood in the way of agreement, and he asked him in all sincerity, and not from a desire to obstruct in any way, whether, considering the short time intervening between now and August 8, and the other work to be done, the discussion on this, perhaps the most important point in the Bill, should not stand over. He held that that was a most reasonable proposal to make, and he therefore moved that the Clause be postponed.

***THE CHAIRMAN**: I cannot put the question that the Clause be postponed, because the Committee has already entered upon the discussion of, and disposed of, two Amendments to it. I will put it as a Motion to report Progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have listened with great attention to the observations of the right hon. Gentleman, and I really am unable to understand that there is any reason for putting off the discussion of this Clause till the other Clauses have been disposed of. Even if it had been possible to postpone the Clause, the reason falls to the ground after the ruling from the Chair. I cannot deny that the Clause as I propose to amend it, the Clause, in fact, as unamended, is one on which there has been, perhaps, more acrimonious discussion in the country than on any other. I can only express the hope—it may be a faint hope—that

these discussions in the House will be of a somewhat more friendly character. I would remind the House that I have never said a single word about the Clause which could mislead any one. I was at great pains the last time we were discussing the Bill, and I was adumbrating the general policy of the Government, to make it clear that we did not propose to alter the proportions of the management in voluntary schools. It is, I suppose, that provision of the Bill which is so unsatisfactory to the right hon. Gentleman and to which he feels bound to offer strenuous opposition. I greatly regret this, but do not see that it is a reason for giving it up. I would suggest that whether the policy of the Government be right or wrong, whether the proportion of elected managers to denominational managers is the correct proportion or the incorrect proportion, no adequate ground has been shown why the debate should be postponed until the autumn. The autumn session was a burden to Members, which he was anxious to reduce as much as possible, and with that object the Committee should get on with the Bill. It would be a great misfortune if the House had to sit over Christmas and even to January—"Oh, oh,"—as had happened before and might happen again. The interruptions from the other side of the House supplied the answer to the right hon. Gentleman, and seemed to indicate that his followers did not favour the prospect of discussing the Bill in January or February next year. That was good reason for making the best use of the opportunity for discussion now presented.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that objections and rulings from the Chair had hitherto prevented discussion of matters dealt with in a clause subsequent to that under the notice of the Committee, but now, to suit the convenience of the Government, it was proposed to throw that principle aside. The reason assigned for this was to get rid of the question at the present sitting of the House, because it was said if it were postponed until the autumn sitting the discussion would take until Christmas. It was evident, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman contemplated a prolonged discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the right hon. Gentleman had not listened to him, or he had not clearly expressed himself. He referred to the whole Bill as likely to require a long discussion, and that was reason for the Committee proceeding with all diligence.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said the right hon. Gentleman would not deny that this was really the fighting part of the Bill. The First Lord of the Treasury had made some suggestions to them in order that the autumn session might be short.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Shorter.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that that was the point which he had put to the Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is not my point.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said he was not desirous of misrepresenting the right hon. Gentleman, so he would let that be his own point. If it were true that they were only to have today and tomorrow and no other days this week for this discussion, how many days would then remain? This was an important part of the Bill, and the right hon. Gentleman was anxious that it should be rapidly proceeded with in order that the autumn sitting might be shorter. The Committee did not know how many days were to be devoted to the Bill before the adjournment. How many days were going to be appropriated to Supply? He understood that there was to be a new form of Supply. They ought to know how many days were going to be given to water, and how many to the discussion of this Clause, which everybody admitted was the most material part of the Bill to be decided before the adjournment. The opportunities which remained at the fag end of a session was not the proper time when a question of this kind ought to be dealt with. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of acrimonious discussions in the country, but did the Committee think those discussions would be any the less acrimonious when the people knew that this Clause had been

smuggled through the House at the fag end of the session? Was that likely to reconcile the people who were dissatisfied with this arrangement? Therefore if the Government desired this question to be discussed, and he assumed that the right hon. Gentleman desired this, then they ought to be told how many days they meant to allow for the discussion of this Clause. That was a thing which they had a right to ask, and if they did not obtain this information, the proposal of his right hon. friend was a reasonable one, and quite in accordance with the usual practice in this House.

(3.8.) MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said he did not know whether he should be in order in raising the point to which he desired to draw the attention of the Chairman, or whether he ought to wait until the First Lord of the Treasury's Amendment was reached. He wished to ask whether the Amendments placed upon the Paper by the First Lord of the Treasury were in order if moved as Amendments to Clause 7? The only part of Clause 7 which would stand if this Amendment were adopted would be—

"All public elementary schools shall be managed in the case of schools provided by the local authority."

The rest of the Clause would be left out, and the right hon. Gentleman was proposing to introduce an alternative system. On many occasions the Chairman had ruled that when an alternative system was proposed to a clause, the proper proceeding would be to move to leave out the words to be struck out and submit the alternative system as a new clause. He held that there could not be a clearer case of an alternative proposal than this Amendment. Practically the whole of Clause 7 was swept away, and an entirely new proposal was submitted by the right hon. Gentleman. He argued that the words might come in as an Amendment to Clause 8, but he contended that this Amendment could not be in order on Clause 7.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I must defer my decision until we reach the Amendment.

Sir William Harcourt.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said that it was around this Clause that the struggles in the country would arise. He had had no opportunity of consulting his own constituents in regard to this new proposal, which was practically a new clause, and it ought to be postponed until they had had an opportunity of consulting their friends in the country and their constituents. It was wrong and unjust to force this through the Committee by sheer weight of numbers without any opportunity of listening to reason. Upon these grounds he thought it was reasonable to ask that this Clause should be postponed.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said he did not know whether the Committee realised the number of days which were available. They were going to have two days discussion on the Education Bill this week. On Tuesday evening it was probable that private Bills would be allowed to cut into the evening sitting. This was a part of the Education Bill which he thought everybody was anxious should not be curtailed, for it would not tell in favour of the smooth working of the Bill or tend to its quick passage into law if there was any sense of injustice felt on the part of the people who were opposed to it. There were eight whole Parliamentary days and two half-days before the adjournment. Of those days five were definitely given up to Supply. He wished to know if the Government intended to go on with the Water Bill. If so, it might be assumed that two half-days would be given to the London Water Bill, and that the remaining three Parliamentary days would be given to the Supplementary Estimates before the House. Of course it would be necessary to have some discussion on the resolution to adjourn. For the discussion of this absolutely vital point of the whole Bill, which was being brought up in a much more detailed form than originally proposed, they were going to have at the very outside three days discussion. He thought it was very doubtful whether a full Parliamentary discussion could be given in three days. The alternative was that the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister would have to have all night sittings, or else he would have to

closure the representatives of Nonconformity, which, he thought, was a prospect even he would not entertain.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said that the First Lord of the Treasury took up the cheers from certain quarters of the House as a sufficient argument for rejecting the proposal of his right hon. friend. He thought the right hon. Gentleman misinterpreted the cheers. The cheers indicated pretty clearly that in the face of the Amendment put on the Paper by the right hon. Gentleman, and in the face of the situation foreshadowed in the country, it would be inevitable that this Bill should be debated at great length during the autumn session as well as on the present occasion, if the First Lord of the Treasury persisted in rejecting this Motion today. There had been the strongest expression of opinion with regard to the Amendments by leading Nonconformists already. They had foreshadowed almost internecine war on this question. He had read with deep interest a letter in the Press from the Rev. F. B. Meyer, in which he said that the Amendments proposed by the right hon. Gentleman filled him with despair, and that if he stood by them there was nothing before Free Churchmen but a long and bitter struggle. Another leading Nonconformist had described these Amendments as a studied insult to the Free Churches. They were at the very crisis of this Bill, where the strongest animosities were aroused. It was clear that the suggestions of the First Lord of the Treasury would not bring them within view of a peaceful solution of these questions. They rather opened the door to more acrimonious discussion. Upon the proper and wise solution of these questions would depend the educational progress of the country for months and years, and he asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he would not be well advised to postpone this Clause until it had received fuller discussion in the country.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said there was really not time left to consider the Clause properly before the adjournment. If the right hon. Gentleman deducted the days which were to be devoted

to Estimates, and Supplementary Estimates, the time to be given to the Irish Local Government Bill, the time he probably wished to give to the London Water Bill, and the time which must be given to the Appropriation Bill, how could he expect to be able to dispose of this Clause? If they were to do justice to the numerous points of importance raised by the Clause, they could not dispose of it in four days except by use of the closure. He was perfectly certain that the right hon. Gentleman did not wish to employ the closure in a matter of this kind. If the Clause could not be carried before the adjournment, the right hon. Gentleman would be obliged to drop the discussion in the middle of the Clause. Surely no time would be saved by pressing it now, for if the right hon. Gentleman had to leave the Clause half finished. Besides the controversial questions which would arise on the Amendments, there were other points raised by other Amendments. There was a most important Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for East Somerset, in regard to the grouping of schools so that managers might be appointed for each group. That would require a great deal of consideration. He must say he thought that matter would be better dealt with as a new Clause, than by an Amendment which was practically a new Clause. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman would shorten the autumn session or diminish the strain upon the House by refusing to postpone the Clause now. The difference of one or two days which the right hon. Gentleman thought would be gained now would not be felt when he came to the autumn session. It would be better to get the Clause through in the autumn session without acrimony than to press it through now.

(3.22.) MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Cardarvon Boroughs) expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would listen to the appeal which had been addressed to him. The right hon. Gentleman had practically taken out of Clause 8 a most controversial sub-section, and put it into Clause 7 after elaborating it. He now proposed to press the Clause through before the adjournment. He could not do that unless he meant to put pressure

on the House, and that would be exceedingly unfair and disastrous in the present state of the controversy. If they were going to have a late autumn sitting he thought they ought to rise early at this stage. This, after all, was the crux of the Bill. Upon the way this Clause issued from the Committee would depend the whole attitude of the great Nonconformist bodies of this country towards the Bill, and after all they were not to be ignored. They were in a minority in this House because it was a House which was not elected upon this issue. This had never been a fair and square issue before the electorate. He felt perfectly certain, if the issue now raised in Clause 7 had been put to the country at the last election, the complexion of the House of Commons, which had an overwhelming majority supporting the right hon. Gentleman, was not the one it would have borne at the present moment. The right hon. Gentleman was using the majority obtained on another issue to force the Bill upon the nation. The people of the country had hardly had time to consider the Bill. Why did the right hon. Gentleman take out the obnoxious sub-section in Clause 8 and put it into Clause 7? It was not because it was better drafting. There was only one reason. He wanted this thing settled before the recess, because he thought it would influence the agitation which was now going on against the Bill. The hon. Member did not think that was fair. He believed it would have exactly the opposite result from that anticipated by the right hon. Gentleman. He had a letter from a man who had not taken a prominent part in agitation on the platform, but he was one of the most powerful in the Nonconformist ranks, and he had come to the conclusion that the Government had made up its mind not to meet the reasonable objections of Nonconformists. That man wanted to make it clear at the outset that, whether the Bill of the Government got through or not, they were simply at the beginning of the controversy so far as the free churches were concerned. Did the right hon. Gentleman mean to carry this through now in order to make it clear to the free churches of the country that this was his ultimatum? If so,

Mr. Lloyd-George.

he thought it was a pretty serious state of things. It would mean two or three months of the bitterest agitation which the right hon. Gentleman had ever had to face. He believed that thousands of electors who voted for hon. Members opposite would not do it again. As one who was anxious that some sort of Bill should be evolved out of the present chaos, he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to consider whether it would not be better in the interest of education to arrive at some compromise by which they could obtain a fair workable measure. That was the alternative. The right hon. Gentleman would force on an agitation of which he did not see the end. He did not know the power and determination of the Nonconformists in regard to this matter. They might call it fanaticism if they liked, but fanaticism was a very dangerous thing to arouse, and no real friend of education would like to see it roused in connection with this or any other Bill. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman whether it would not be better to avoid all this agitation, and give the two or three months of the recess to the purpose of thrashing this matter out. What would the right hon. Gentleman gain? He might gain an extra day next week, but the only result would be that he would force this section through Committee under circumstances which would exasperate bitterness, because there would be a feeling in the country that there was no freedom of debate, and, what was worse, the right hon. Gentleman would only get half the section through, and the whole controversy would be renewed when the other half came to be considered. There were some departmental Bills that might, in the meantime, be got out of the way, and even some other Clauses in this Bill. The right hon. Gentleman was stirring up, without real knowledge, the forces at work in this business. They had discussed this matter with considerable equanimity in the Committee hitherto. The discussions did not represent a tithe of the real animosity outside. What surprised Nonconformist ministers who visited the Chamber was the spirit in which the Bill was discussed, and these said that hon. Members had not got the earnestness of the men who sent them there.

If the right hon. Gentleman did not listen to this appeal, he would do the Bill no good and do education no good.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he supported the appeal made to the right hon. Gentleman on practical grounds. The first was time. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman had accurately estimated the shortness of the time before him to deal with this gigantic task in Clause 7. Assuming that the Adjournment took place on the Friday before the Coronation, there were only available ten Parliamentary days. Now, of those ten days eight were practically appropriated outside this Bill, and outside legislation altogether. There were three days taken next week for Supply and three days this week for the Irish Estimates and financial relations. Then they should not approach the Appropriation Bill in a temper of resentment. That was a Bill, which could not reasonably be closed, and the debate upon it might extend over two days. Last year the Second Reading occupied one day and the Third Reading one day. Putting aside all other questions that might arise, he was sure that after this week the right hon. Gentleman could not get more than two available days for the Education Bill. The next point was that urged with great force and eloquence by the hon. Member for Carnarvon. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that there were a great number of people in this country and on both sides of the House who, although disappointed with the proposals in the Bill, were anxious for a reasonable compromise. He was satisfied that if the right hon. Gentleman would only mark time, moderate men on both sides might put their heads together, and a solution would be found which would obviate the destruction of that popular control which should accompany the expenditure of public money and at the same time protect the legitimate claims of the denominational schools. But he was convinced that if the right hon. Gentleman forced this question on to a decision in the next two or three days, he would sweep away all possibility of a compromise. It would amount to a declaration of war, and he did not think that that would be wise in

the interests of the contending parties in the country or of education. That was a step which should not be taken until every other means had been exhausted. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman not to go on with Clause 7 so far as it dealt with School Board schools and the schools to be provided by the new education authority. The right hon. Gentleman should leave the fighting question over altogether till the autumn. There would be a good deal to say on both sides of the House on questions of considerable difficulty in this Clause, which were evidently not present to the mind of the right hon. Gentleman. He could not see how this Clause was to be worked in large towns like Wolverhampton, where he was Chairman of the School Board, so far as the School Board Schools were concerned. There was plenty of debatable matter in Clause 7 without approaching this contentious question. For these reasons, and in the interests of peace and a wise settlement of the question, he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to arrive at some *modus vivendi* by which consideration of Clause 7 might be postponed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that before he came to the larger question of subsidies which had been raised by the right hon. Gentleman and the Member for Carnarvon Boroughs, he might say with regard to the actual time at their disposal, that even on the right hon. Gentleman's own calculation it appeared that four days were left, during the present session for the discussion of the Education Bill, and that was the exact time which it was suggested by the right hon. Member for South Aberdeen might appropriately be taken up by the discussion on this question.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said there were the new Estimates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he himself anticipated with some confidence that they would not have less than four days for the discussion in connection with this clause.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said he would remind the right hon. Gentleman of the fact that he had

definitely promised a day for discussing the question connected with the shipping combination.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not anticipate there would be a whole day required for the discussion of that subject. Coming to the larger question raised by the right hon. Gentlemen, to listen to the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite, one might really suppose that the Government were acting in a harsh and tyrannical manner, and that they and those outside for whom they spoke had real reason to complain of the procedure the Government had adopted. He must absolutely repudiate any such view. If there was any grievance, it was on the part of the Government, and not on the part of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He was told that he had put down an entirely new clause on the Paper. It was not a new clause as touching the real matter at issue between those for whom the hon. Member for Carnarvon spoke and hon. Gentlemen on the Government side. The Bill as originally introduced, as it was defended, as it originally passed the Second Reading and was discussed in this House, always contained, and was intended to contain, a provision by which a majority of managers should be given denominational control under the new system. As he had said, that might be a good plan or a bad plan, but it was the plan of the Bill from the beginning, and it was absolutely unmodified by the expansion which the clause had undergone during the last few days. He admitted that the expansion left untouched the question of the relative numbers of managers of denominational schools, and in every other respect it was a concession. [Hon. Members on the Opposition Benches, "No."] It would tax the ingenuity even of hon. Gentlemen opposite to prove that it was not a concession in regard to the character and number of the elected members. Then they were told that the Government ought to have left the matter as it originally was in Clause 8, and not to have dealt with it in Clause 7. He might have been very well content to take that course if it had not been the obvious intention of the Committee to raise it on Clause 7. They had only to look through the Amendments standing in the name of the right hon. Member for South

Mr. Edmund Robertson.

Aberdeen and other hon. Members opposite to see that they had intended to deal with Clause 7 exactly as the Government now proposed to do. These hon. Gentleman had taken Clause 7 as the text and canvas on which they were going to embody their own particular scheme. It was obviously quite impossible to have avoided this discussion on Clause 7. Hon. Members opposite talked as if some tremendous attempt were going to be made to unduly curtail debate on this clause; but he thought the Committee would admit that they had shown a large measure of toleration in discussion. He was always having hopes dangled before him of a compromise being arrived at on the Bill by reasonable men on both sides. There had been plenty of time for these wise men to come together, as there was absolutely no change in the essence of the clause since the Bill was introduced before Easter. He presumed all these peacemakers had been at work since that time. He said with the profoundest regret, if it were any satisfaction to the hon. Gentleman opposite, that, with a full consciousness of all the difficulties which were likely to befall them in the matter, it was perfectly clear that the militant Nonconformists, whom the hon. Gentleman so efficiently spoke for, would be content with nothing except what was called popular control and management of denominational schools. For the Government to give that up, would be not merely to violate all their principles and pledges, and to betray those who sent them to this House, but would be to do something which seemed to him monstrously and utterly unjust. Being monstrously and utterly unjust, so far from bringing that peace to the community which was promised by hon. Gentlemen opposite, he confessed that, evil as might be the present condition of affairs, much though they might have to endure from sharp divisions of opinion among themselves, he earnestly and firmly believed that that evil was as nothing to the evil they would have to endure if they were to recede from what had always been a central principle of the Bill. He regretted that, in such circumstances, the Government were not met with greater generosity by hon. Gentlemen opposite. Hon. Gentlemen differed from the

Government conscientiously, and, so far as that particular clause was concerned at all events, strenuously and vehemently; but that was no reason why they should not proceed with all the good humour, temper, moderation, and wisdom they could command; continue the discussion during the days still remaining in the course of the present portion of the session—which, after all, would not be a very lengthened period—with all these excellent Parliamentary gifts and virtues; and, if possible, complete the discussion on a clause which he quite admitted was one of the most difficult portions of the Bill.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said that the speech of the right hon. Gentleman seemed to him to be most unfortunate. The right hon. Gentleman stated that the view of his hon. friend was monstrously and utterly unjust; but they were just as much inclined to describe the position of the right hon. Gentleman as monstrously and utterly unjust. Surely, in the circumstances, the Government were unwise in not taking a broader view of the situation. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the Amendment as a concession to the views of the Opposition; but they regarded the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman as an aggravation rather than a concession; and that being the case, they were surely entitled to ask that the matter should not be decided at the present time. The right hon. Gentleman would not deny that, as far as they were concerned, the discussion had been carried on in perfect good temper; and, as the right hon. Gentleman admitted, it would be a great

pity to aggravate the feeling which had obtained up to the present. That view was not confined to members of the Opposition. A short time ago there was a letter in *The Times* from the Rev. Mr. Diggle, who was the denominationalist Chairman of the London School Board, in which he stated that they were in danger of legislating in haste before the subject matter for legislation was ripe. That was precisely the opinion of his hon. friends; and therefore it would be wise to postpone Clause 7 until it could be seen whether there was any means by which they could arrive at an agreement regarding it.

*MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said that no doubt the object of the right hon. Gentleman in putting the Amendment down was that the clause might be passed before the House adjourned, but if hon. Gentlemen would look at the Amendment they would see that there were two pages of Amendments before the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment, many of which would be discussed, although they might be ultimately superseded by the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment. To proceed would, in the circumstances, be waste of time. Then there were five pages of Amendments after the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment. Therefore it would be practically impossible to dispose of the Clause before the adjournment, and its postponement would be an advantage to the Bill generally.

(3.58.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 93; Noes, 213. (Division List No. 307.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Banes, Major George Edward
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Croisbie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William

Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hayne, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir Wm. Henry
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maur. ce
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David

Lough, Thomas
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pirie, Duncan V.
 Price, Robert John
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Rickett, J. Compton

Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Russell, T. W.
 Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Tomkinson, James
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 Weir, James Galloway
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf d)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone
 and Mr. John Sinclair.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Ambrose, Robert
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walthworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Beighold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Delany, William
 Dickson, Charles Scott

Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Sir Hn Michael (Lond. Univ.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Linc.)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry S Edm'nds)
 Greene, W. Raymond. (Cambs.)
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hain, Edward
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midd'x)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Horner, Frederick William
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant

Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 London, W.
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Manners Lord Cecil
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Mooney, John J.
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (M'nm'tsh.)
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Monnt, William Arthur
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donal Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Mara, James
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph

Purvis, Robert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Ridley, Hon. M. W. (Stalybridge)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.

Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)

Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Pow'ell. (Birm.
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

(4.10.) MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said the Amendment he proposed to move involved an important principle, first of all as to whether the managers' appointments were to be permissive or compulsory, and whether the managers were to be delegates of the local authority, or whether they were to have an independent position. It was perfectly clear, from the Act of 1870, that the appointment of managers was to be permissive; it was quite clear that the School Boards under that Act were to have absolute power over the managers. They could appoint and remove them, and lay down rules for the guidance of their policy, and if they did not carry out those rules the School Board could remove them. Those were the lines on which the School Boards had hitherto proceeded; they had not in all cases appointed managers to manage the schools, because in some cases they had managed the schools direct; but wherever they had appointed managers, they had reserved to themselves the right to dismiss their managers if they did not conform to the rules laid down, and in some cases they had lost no time in exercising their powers. The Bill as it at present stood made the appointment compulsory, but he thought the discretion which was possessed by the School Boards should be given also to the new local education authority. As the clause stood, it would take away from the new education authority the control they ought to have, and set up another authority. If this great trust was to be imposed upon the local education authorities, entire confidence ought to be placed in their

discretion. The principle of the Amendment, if adopted, could easily be worked, either with the clause as it now stood or with the alterations proposed by the Government. In any case, the rating authority ought to be the governing authority. As regarded the denominational schools, the Amendment had no application whatever, as they stood on a different footing; but in common fairness the local authorities ought to have full control over their own schools, and therefore he moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 38, to leave out from the beginning to the word 'under,' in line 40, and to insert the words 'The local educational authority may appoint managers.'" — (Mr. Charles M'Arthur.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

(4.17.) MR. A. J. BALFOUR entirely concurred in his hon. friend's desire that the new authority should be, and remain, supreme in its control over education in all classes of elementary schools, and he would be sorry to think that anything in the Bill as at present drafted militated against that view. It seemed to be supposed that the managers would stand in a position of permanent opposition to the authority by whom they were appointed. That, however, was not his anticipation. He agreed that they should hold office during the pleasure of the education authority, and that no collision should be possible or permissible; but at the

same time he did not think the Amendment or the principle laid down by the hon. Member could be accepted. He would be sorry to see it left open to any education authority, especially that of a great county area, to have no local representatives or managers at all in connection with the schools. Therefore, while sympathising with the object of his hon. friend, he suggested it would be adequately met by the Bill as framed.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) was sorry to hear the First Lord's reply, because experience had shown that many School Boards had managed their schools admirably without the intervention of managers. That was almost universally the case with regard to the School Boards of the smaller areas, such as those with 10,000 inhabitants, which, under this Bill, would be autonomous for purposes of elementary education. The Vice-President would doubtless tell the First Lord that the School Boards of such urban districts were quite able, and found it more expeditious and economical, to manage their schools directly. He believed that, even in such places as Liverpool, Leeds, and Sheffield, the School Boards had managed the schools directly, with most excellent results, and he sincerely hoped the power would be given to the new authorities to appoint managers or not, as they thought best. London, with its 1,500 school departments and half a million children, was on an entirely different footing. Obviously, the School Board could not manage each school, and had had to appoint managers. But even then they had insisted on the managers being directly under the School Board, and prepared a code of regulations outside of which the managers could not go. He hoped a similar policy would be pursued under the Bill. He admitted there was a difficulty with regard to county areas, and that schools in the remote districts could not be fairly managed from the county centre. In such cases local managers were necessary, but in the urban districts the authority should have the right either to appoint managers or to manage schools directly, as they thought best.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) feared that the First Lord hardly realised

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

all that was covered by the Amendment. He had dealt with the matter only from the point of view of the county areas, whereas the supporters of the Amendment had in view the urban districts, and particularly the non-county boroughs with small populations, in which it would be absurd to require the appointment of managers. The practice of School Boards was not to appoint managers. It was only in London and two or three of the larger places that that course had been adopted. The practice of the School Board was to appoint a School Management Committee, by which all details affecting the individual schools were dealt with. He quite agreed that in the county areas it was desirable to have managers, but in the small urban districts it was not only undesirable from the point of view of ordinary administration, but it was also placing another buffer between the ratepayers and the schools. The absurdity of the proposal was perhaps the best argument that could be brought against it. In a town of 12,000 inhabitants, about one-sixth of the population would be in the public elementary schools, and those 2,000 children would, as a rule, be accommodated in three schools. Was it necessary to compel the local authority to appoint eighteen managers for those schools? It would be really absurd to have three sets of six managers, plus the urban local authority, plus the County Council for secondary education—all exercising control over those unfortunate schools. He earnestly hoped this question would be reconsidered as it affected the urban districts. In the county areas, where the central management was remote from the school, it was necessary to have somebody on the spot to see that the regulations were carried into effect. The present Amendment was possibly not the best that could be devised, and he suggested that the object could be secured by the substitution of "may" for "shall" in the first line of the Amendment to be proposed by the right hon. Gentleman himself.

MR. BRYCE said the right hon. Gentleman did not appear to appreciate the importance of the Amendment. The only answer he had given was that it was but reasonable that in the county local managers should be appointed, and that the County Council or its Committee should not undertake the whole

work. That was quite obvious, but surely the right hon. Gentleman remembered that Clause 1 provided that the Council of a borough with 10,000 inhabitants, or of an urban district with 20,000, should be the local education authority for the purposes of Clause 3. Could any reason be suggested for the appointment of local managers in a borough of 10,000 inhabitants? No gain could possibly result from the adoption of such a course, as it would be perfectly easy for the local education authority itself to control and supervise the whole of the elementary education in the area. The case was all the stronger when he considered the existing law. By Clause 6, the powers and duties of the School Board were transferred to the new authority, and under the existing law, the School Board had power to appoint managers if it thought fit to do so. Why should this power, which the School Board had hitherto had, be withdrawn from the new authority? It was very desirable to have unity of management in these smaller areas; and why—to take the case instanced by the hon. Member for North West Ham—should it be necessary to have three different sets of managers when it would be much better and simpler for the local authority to manage the schools directly? The management would be more efficient. This point appeared in a stronger light when they considered economy, for one of the greatest difficulties would arise from the uneconomical management of the school. It was pointed out in a letter in *The Times* by Mr. Edward Buxton, who was at one time the Chairman of the Essex School Board, that one of the greatest difficulties would be when a board of managers incurred expenses they would have no motive in keeping them down. Surely, as far as they could they ought not only to keep the managers in close touch with the local authorities, but they should also group the schools. In the case of counties they would have to group the schools, but in the boroughs and the smaller urban districts they had the grouping power already, and they were going wilfully to depart from it by imposing the obligation to appoint managers where there was no necessity for it. As

was said by the hon. Member for West Ham, they wanted to distinguish large areas from small areas. He understood the hon. Member for the Exchange Division said that that plan worked well at Liverpool and Wolverhampton, and what reason was there to depart from it? He contended that in the case of the smaller boroughs and urban districts the power ought not to be withdrawn. He thought the right hon. Gentleman should introduce an Amendment which would distinguish between the cases in which managers ought to be appointed from amongst themselves, and cases where it was to be left to the local authority to appoint managers or not, as they thought fit.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he wished to make two observations, one on the form and the other on the substance of this Amendment. This proposal would make it absolutely impossible to go on with the Amendment which the Government had put down on the Paper. The thing was inadmissible in its present shape. As regarded the substance, no doubt an Amendment could be introduced embodying the view of the hon. Member at a later stage in conformity with the general framework of the Clause as the Government now proposed to adopt it. He would respectfully point out to his hon. friend the Member for West Ham that he thought his Amendment was unnecessary. In any case, it ought not to be discussed now.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said the general rule had been not to appoint these Committees. Moreover, where these local Committees had been appointed in boroughs they had not been appointed for single schools, but for a group of three or four schools, and their powers had been so reduced that they had become merely visitors of the schools; so that practically, with regard to the School Boards in boroughs, they had been adverse to what was proposed in the Bill. The local authority, in the case of a borough discovering that it had too much work to do, could, under Clause 15 of the Education Act, delegate its powers to a Committee. He hoped the First

Lord of the Treasury would make it clear that he was willing to accept this as an optional and not as a compulsory power.

MR. TREVELYAN said that the addition of a very few words would leave it optional in the case of boroughs and urban districts where the authority was the only elected authority, and would leave it still compulsory in the case of counties. He hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would insist upon keeping in the Clause the compulsory appointment of managers in the case of counties. The right hon. Gentleman said that no collision was possible or permissible between the local authority and the managers, but considering the composition of the bodies of the managers of voluntary schools, he failed to see the force of that argument.

*MR. CHANNING thought the First Lord of the Treasury had not fully considered the differences between one place and another. His method might be applicable to the relation of the County Council to a large number of the areas under the County Council, but the right hon. Gentleman must be aware, from the construction of his own Bill, that the ultimate form in which this question of management would present itself would not only be limited to those urban districts over 20,000, but they would probably have to contemplate a state of things in which a very large number of authorities for small areas would become the local authority for elementary education. Therefore, this question was not limited in the form put by the First Lord of the Treasury, and the plan suggested was a wholly inadequate way of dealing with it. He invited the right hon. Gentleman to put before the Committee a more complete and elastic solution of the immediate difficulty they had to face.

* (4.45.) MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby) said his hon. friend had raised a very important issue by the Amendment. He thought the right hon. Gentleman did not meet the point put to him from this side of the House. That point was that when they came to his own Amendment they would have to consider a proposal that the education authority "shall have a body of managers." What those who were supporting the present Amendment

Mr. Foxall.

wanted the right hon. Gentleman to tell them was whether he would substitute "may" for "shall." The real difficulty would be in the small districts, and especially in the case of small School Boards where there was no need for managers at all. He instanced the case of Chiswick, where there were four schools and a School Board of nine members. They did not want managers there to see after the schools at all. If in such a case there were managers for each school, there would be no end of friction and a large amount of trouble. In the case of a county, it would be necessary to have some sort of management over the schools.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR, without giving a pledge, undertook to consider whether in small boroughs the appointment of managers should not be compulsory.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE asked whether, in a district having, say, 12,000 inhabitants and four schools, the town council would be compelled to appoint six managers for each, making twenty-four in all. Would a County Council for a whole county be bound to appoint managers for each school throughout the county, or could they group town, villages, or districts? It appeared to him the words of the Clause meant that each school should have managers of its own. He further asked the Attorney General to state whether the object the Government had in view would not be met by such words as "where the local authority think necessary."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said it would certainly not be necessary to have four distinct sets of managers; the authority would appoint six members as a managing body, and these would manage the four schools. With regard to the second question put by the hon. Member, he said there was a Clause touching it standing in the name of his right hon. friend, and he thought it better that he should refrain from discussing it at the present time.

* MR. GEORGE WHITE was satisfied that School Boards would not, as a rule, if they had to recommence their work,

appoint managers; they would effect their object by the appointment of inspectors. Experience had shown that the local inspector came into collision with the school managers, who were far too apt to look to their own single school rather than to the whole of the schools under the Board. An expenditure desired by the managers of one school might be small for one school, but it became a large expenditure for the whole of the schools. In that way local managers did not promote economy. If they were to have separate sets of managers for each school, it would mean in the County of Norfolk that they would require 3,000 managers. He did not think that number could be found who would be willing to give the time necessary for management.

MR. HEYWOOD JOHNSTONE (Sussex, Horsham) thought that it would be desirable to give the local authority discretion by such words as "may, if they think fit, and shall, if required to do so by the Board of Education, appoint a Board of managers."

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR expressed himself satisfied with the promise given by the First Lord of the Treasury, and desired to withdraw his Amendment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) felt that something more definite should be said before the Amendment was withdrawn. It seemed to him that the proposal of the Bill was an extraordinary clumsy way of doing what was done now, without difficulty of friction, to the satisfaction of the Education Department and of the schools themselves. But the right hon. Gentleman went on to say that obviously the borough or urban local authority would have the power to appoint a Board of managers, and that it might consist of members of the local education authority. The First Lord did not seem to see the point raised by hon. Members on both sides of the House. What happened at the present moment was that where a School Board did not appoint a Board of managers to a school, the School Board was practically its own managers. Surely it was a very clumsy way of dealing with this question—both from the point of view of the local authority

and the schools themselves—that the local education authority should pick out six members of their own body, each six members to be managers of, say, six different schools in the area. The right hon. Gentleman should give a more satisfactory explanation of his own proposal.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would not divide on this Amendment, as it would prejudice the whole question, and would not be in the interest of the hon. Gentleman's own case. He was clearly of opinion that this was not the proper place to deal with the question at all.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said he quite saw that it would be disadvantageous to negative this Amendment, because afterwards nothing could be done upon it. But the point they wished to put before the right hon. Gentleman was that there were many cases where no managers would be appointed—where it was not desirable that managers should be appointed; but that the local education authority should do as the School Boards now did, and be the managers themselves. The right hon. Gentleman should give an undertaking to meet that point.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he could not agree to that, because it would be inconsistent with his own Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said the question was whether the right hon. Gentleman would give an assurance that, when he came to his Amendment, he would deal with this point. His own supporters told him that there were cases where it was very undesirable that there should be a compulsory appointment of managers. On all hands it was admitted that there ought to be this liberty.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said his difficulty in regard to this Amendment was that it would not read with the Clause at all, and that it raised the whole question at the wrong time. He must say—having listened to the debate, and being prepared to support the principle of the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment at the right time—

that, from a purely educational point of view, it would be inadvisable to force the issue now to a decision, and so prevent the raising of the question in another shape at the proper time. The best course would be to close the discussion now, and raise the question on the First Lord's Amendment.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that the proposal of the Amendment would shorten the debate, otherwise the question would have to be raised over again.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he wished to ask the First Lord whether his objection to the Amendment was a purely technical one?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that surely he had gone as far as any reasonable man could expect the Government to go. It was not an easy thing to draft his Amendment off-hand. He had heard all the arguments, and he admitted that there was a good deal to be said in favour of making a distinction between some kinds of education areas and other kinds. But this was not the time to discuss that. Could anything be more reasonable than what he had said?

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

(5.10.) MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) said the issue raised by his next Amendment was a very clear one. It was inevitable that it should be raised when they came to discuss the question of management. Having regard to all the circumstances of the case, and in the interests of educational efficiency, was it not best that all those schools should be managed under the same conditions of management? If this Bill passed, the position would be that in the case of every public elementary school there would be equal power of rating and aid, equal Imperial grants from the Treasury; and the whole secular instruction in these schools would be under the control of the same education authority. There was a distinction between the two classes of schools, which arose from the fact that the denominational schools were built and owned, not

Mr. Dillon.

by the local education authority, but by the denomination which had provided the funds for building the schools. As a Nonconformist, he desired to meet that position frankly and fairly; and in his judgment that difference between the two classes of schools should be reasonably and justly made in some other way than that proposed by the Bill. What he and those who agreed with him wanted was to do away with any sense of injustice in regard to a system of education which should be national. If the Clause was passed in its present form, it would be the means of stirring up very serious strife and discord throughout the country for months and years to come. Feeling most deeply that the question of elementary education was vital to the progress of the country, he deplored that an opportunity of this kind was to be allowed to pass away without doing something to meet the difficulty, and ensuring unanimity in regard to the justice of the Nonconformist demands. He might be asked how he was prepared, if he did not accept the plan of the Government for the irresponsible management of denominational schools, to meet the difficulty of compensating those who had spent so much money in erecting these schools, and have done it under the stimulus of what they considered to be the best interests of the country. In the first place, he would give an adequate money payment in the shape of rent for the school buildings; and in the second place, he would agree that the definite religious instruction in all these schools should be ensured by the Bill. He ventured to say that if that were done, the justice of the case would be met, and there would not be created in the country any feeling of injustice. If all the managers of every public elementary school were to be nominated in every case by the local education authority, he ventured to submit that the local education authority would be a thoroughly representative body, and representative not of any one class or section of the community, but of the whole area in which the public elementary schools were established. For these reasons, it was most important that we should do justice when we closed these schools, and adequately compensate those who had spent large sums of

money on them. It was most important that this management principle should be so arranged as to insure equal treatment in every school.

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, line 38, after the word ‘schools,’ to insert the words ‘within the area of any local education authority.’”—(*Mr. Herbert Roberts.*)

Question proposed, “That those words be there inserted.”

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the proposal of the hon. Gentleman, as he understood it, was to have an identic system of management whether they were dealing with a school provided by the education authority or with a denominational school. But that would cut away the very principle of the Bill, and the basis of compromise which was intended. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to have in his mind some expedient by which the denomination of a school could be retained while having precisely the same kind of management as that provided by the education authority; he had never heard of any such scheme and he doubted whether any scheme of the kind was practicable. Under these circumstances, he could not accept the Amendment, which seemed to him to cut the very root of the compromise the Bill was intended to effect.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said the Amendment raised the question of what kind of control the educational authority was to have over 140,000 voluntary schools. The Committee ought to have some more information on this question. Was there to be any control over these managers, or were they to be absolutely independent of, and superior to, the local authority? That was the real issue on which this matter was to be judged.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They are absolutely under their control as far as secular instruction is concerned.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said, so they had been told, but he had read the Bill, and, so far as he understood it, if the local education authority came to one decision and the school managers to

another, it was to be left to the Board of Education to determine between them. In Clause 8 there was a sub-section which read—

“The managers of the school shall carry out any directions of the local education authority as to the secular instruction to be given in the school.”

In Section 2 of the same Clause, however, they read—

“If any question arises under this section between the local education authority and the managers of a school, that question shall be determined by the Board of Education.”

Really, the right hon. Gentleman should not contradict in such a manner, when there was such a Clause as that.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he apologised if he had been guilty of any rudeness. He assured the right hon. Gentleman that the control of the education authority was absolute over secular education. If the Education Department was brought in under the section read, it could only be to determine whether a question in dispute related to secular education or not.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that might be the right hon. Gentleman's idea but it certainly was not in the Bill. The words used were “if any question arises.” Therefore, this great education authority was practically to be a subordinate authority, for the managers were to be independent of it, and might submit a question in dispute to the arbitration of the Education Department. Another point was that they could not enforce compliance—there was no power in them to refuse a rate. Clause 8 said—

“Compliance with this section shall be one of the conditions required to be fulfilled by an elementary school in order to obtain a Parliamentary grant.”

So that it was the Parliamentary grant in the hands of the Board of Education which was the power to enforce compliance. There was no power to withhold the rate—they were bound to maintain efficiency, and bound to pay the rate, and withholding the Parliamentary grant was the only method by which they could enforce compliance. The consequence was that the managers were absolutely independent of the local education authority. The local education authority first of all, must have its directions disobeyed,

and when they were disobeyed the method to enforce compliance was to withhold, not the fund at their disposal, which they themselves raised out of the rates, and which they were bound to give in order to maintain efficiency, but the Parliamentary grant. The whole question was whether the managers of these voluntary schools were, or were not, under the control at all of the local education authorities. So far as he read the Bill, they were not. It was all very well to say the local education authorities were supreme in secular education, but they were not supreme. As the Bill was framed, with the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman to Clause 8, there was no control over the managers of the schools whatever.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that, as the Bill stood, the education authority was supreme. The sixth Clause provided that the control of all secular instruction in public elementary schools should be given to the local education authority; in the sub-section of the eighth clause read by the right hon. Gentleman this provision as to secular instruction was carried further. If any question came before the Board of Education under that sub-section, they must decide it according to law, and the law was that the directions given by the local education authority as to secular instruction were to be carried out.

*DR. MACNAMARA said no doubt the hon. and learned Gentleman was perfectly right, but he would point out that Clause 6 laid it down that the local education authority was to be the supreme authority with regard to secular schools. How was that policy carried out? The Government had a very difficult problem to solve. They were endeavouring to preserve denominational education with public control. How the First Lord of the Treasury could imagine he was giving supreme control over secular education to the local education authority when only two of the six managers appointed would represent the public, he did not know. The difficulty would arise mostly under the sub-section which said these authorities must keep up to a certain standard the fabric of these schools. The

Government had this impossible task before it, and what the ultimate result would be, he could not say; but directly the schools were put upon the rates, only one inevitable result would be arrived at, which no amount of gerrymandering would put off. This Amendment proposed to set up, so far as it could be set up at the present stage, one form of management for all classes of schools, whether denominational or not. That was impossible, and he thought the Committee ought to endeavour to settle the question of the management of the public authority schools first, and afterwards come to the question of the denominational schools. They could agree without much difficulty as to the form of management of the public authority schools, therefore let them get a good and effective management of those schools, and get that out of the way first, and then they could come to this, as he believed, insoluble question of the management of the denominational schools.

*(5.38.) MR. CHANNING said the First Lord appeared to object to this Amendment because it gave uniformity to the management in both forms of schools. It was perfectly obvious if by this Amendment they adopted a method applicable to both classes of schools, subsequent Amendments would be required to guard in detail some of the rights of the voluntary schools, and that, he understood, his hon. friend would assent to. The First Lord had stated that he had never heard any suggestion for protecting denominational teaching, yet suggestions had repeatedly been made from the moment the Act of 1870 had passed. Many educational experts, and notably Dr. Crosskey, so long the Chairman of the Birmingham School Board, have again and again recommended the voluntary schools should be granted a rate and be placed under the control of the School Board, and should, in spite of that, have a right to retain their school buildings for denominational teaching, outside the distinctive hours of the ordinary secular curriculum of the school. That plan had been referred to again and again in the debates in this House. Assuming, therefore, that his hon. friend

Sir William Harcourt.

would consent to Amendments which would cover some sort of provision for denominational teaching, of a distinctive type, in these schools granted to the religious bodies, the Amendment before the House would be essentially a business-like Amendment, and a proper one for them to support. He did not see any suggestion from the point of view of the First Lord's Amendment which would tend to educational efficiency. The supporters of voluntary schools in country districts must wish their schools brought into the organisation of the higher education of the whole area; they did not wish to be treated on an isolated and distinct basis, and that being so, it seemed to him that the more they assimilated the form of the administration of these schools, rendering uniform the character of their management, the better the machinery they were creating for securing the real efficiency of each school. He had always held that under the scheme to which he had referred it was perfectly possible to reconcile the efficiency of the school with the retention of distinctive religious teaching, and he would welcome any proposal which would guard the rights of those interested in denominational teaching in the voluntary schools, and would, at the same time, bring those schools into that one uniform scheme which was essential for secular education in the counties.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said in regard to the suggestion of the hon. Member for North Camberwell that this discussion should be postponed in order to deal with one class of school before coming to the other, his contention was that this Bill, from the point of view of finance at all events, placed both classes in exactly the same position from the public point of view, and that from that point of view the relationship of the schools to the public authority should be exactly the same. What reason was there for Parliament to treat these two classes of schools differently? None; yet Parliament was now asked to make a great distinction between those schools, whose chief end was to provide denominational teaching and those who did not provide such teaching. He did not think Parliament ought to be invited to make any such distinction in the treatment of these

schools. He was aware that a difference had been recognised previously, because the right hon. Gentleman had said "why object to pay rates for these denominational schools when you do not object to pay taxes for them." The answer was simple. The taxes had been paid for the maintenance of these schools under the arrangement come to in 1870. In 1870 they arrived at a compromise which recognised the denominational schools, and undertook to grant a certain limited amount to them, while they on their part found an equal sum in voluntary subscriptions. That had now gone, and both classes of schools were put on the same footing so far as finance was concerned, and the time was rapidly approaching when these schools, so far as management was concerned, would have to be put on exactly the same basis as the public authority schools. The right hon. Gentleman had said the money for the denominational schools would not be paid out of the Exchequer, but out of voluntary subscriptions, but he did not think the Government believed that a single penny for the maintenance of the voluntary schools would be provided by means of voluntary subscriptions; the whole of it would come out of the Exchequer. The right hon. Gentleman had said far harder things than had been said on the Liberal side of the House. He had said it was an outrage to try and prevent the children of denominationalists being educated out of the rates. Nobody wished to shut them out. The outrage was that denominational schools should be maintained out of the rates. The right hon. Gentleman spoke upon this matter as if the Committee were making proposals to re-enact the Conventicles Act, not as regarded Nonconformity, but as regarded secondary schools. There was no such intention on the part of anybody. The intention was not to prevent the denominational schools having these rights, not to limit the religious teaching, but to insure that such religious teaching should not be given by the public authority; that it should only be given with the consent of the public authority, and at times provided by them. That was the rule which had been laid down for many years, and that proposition, if accepted, would end in the freedom of education

from the bitterness of religious controversy. With regard to its being immoral to levy rates for this purpose, as the right hon. Gentleman said, that surely was putting it rather high.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say so. What I said was that to resist the legal obligation to pay rates would be immoral.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON thought that was a distinction without a difference. He did not think that these things should be considered from a moral standpoint. There was no justification for denominational schools to claim to have supreme control of these schools, and if the right hon. Gentleman recognised that fact some arrangement might be come to.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said there was no part of the Education Bill now before the House which had caused greater disappointment than the want of appreciation on the part of the Government with regard to this matter of public control. This Bill aggravated rather than relieved the difficulty. Everybody hoped that when the question of education was reopened, the question of public control, where public funds were concerned, would be recognised in a different way to which it was by this Bill. Where schools were maintained entirely out of public funds they should be governed, so far as secondary and secular education was concerned, by those who contributed to the fund, and if an arrangement could be come to with hon. Gentlemen opposite with regard to religious teaching, he was sure it would be met by those who sat with him. The whole contention of hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House in favour of their maintaining their control was in consequence of their having supplied the buildings. The present management of those schools, which had been, and which would continue to be, maintained by public funds, was largely in irresponsible hands, and often in the hands of one man, but if it passed from the hands of that one man to the denomination, there would still be a grievance. He contended that taxation and representations should go together. What was the present position of the

Mr. Alfred Hutton.

teaching profession in the denominational schools? No one who had taken any active part in the education question could be without abundant illustrations of the tyranny that was practised over the teachers by the managers. One teacher had told him he was only able to obtain and retain his present position by becoming organist and choirmaster; that for twelve and a half years he had not had a holiday.

*THE CHAIRMAN called attention to the fact that the hon. Member was straying far away from the question.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said he desired to point out the injustice which was perpetrated under the present system of management. This Bill would not remove that injustice, and he was confident that until they got a larger local control into the management of the schools they would never get the teachers fairly treated.

*THE CHAIRMAN invited the hon. Member to confine his remarks to the Amendment before the House.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said he understood the Amendment opened up the whole field of control; if that was not so he apologised. With regard to the Amendment, it seemed to him there could be little said beyond the principle he had already laid down: that schools which were supported entirely out of the public funds should be wholly governed, so far as secular education was concerned, by those who contributed the money.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said the Prime Minister and the Attorney General had given an extremely important assurance, namely, that Sub-section 2 of Clause 8 related merely to what was or was not secular education, but such an assurance would not affect any judicial decision. Would the right hon. Gentleman assent, therefore, to the insertion of certain words, such words for instance as—

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Gentleman was now proceeding to amend Clause 8. They had better dispose of Clause 7 first.

*MR. HERBERT LEWIS said he was only asking the right hon. Gentleman for an assurance in that respect, because such an assurance might greatly affect their attitude on this Amendment. He would like to draw attention to one or two anomalies which would exist unless the uniform control which it was the object of this Amendment to secure was adopted. There were schools which not only received their maintenance, but interest on the cost of buildings paid by way of rent from public funds. Would not those schools be placed under the same kind of control as schools provided by the educational authority?

(6.10.) MR. BROADHURST expressed surprise that the First Lord of the Treasury should not have accepted this Amendment. He should have thought it would have commended itself to the right hon. Gentleman, whose whole argument had been that the Bill was to promote uniformity, and to have one central system of education throughout the country. This Amendment sought to maintain and provide for the effective and efficient control of all schools throughout the country, whether denominational or otherwise. The fact was, the right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that the Nonconformist had been a willing contributor through taxation to the funds of voluntary schools, and had acquiesced without protest in being deprived of any share in their management. An assertion of that kind was entirely misleading. Ever since 1870 there had been unceasing protest. He had with him a Church organ—perhaps he should say an organ of the Church—the *Church Gazette*, in which it was stated that one of the dangers of the present time was the attitude adopted by the Church towards education. The Prime Minister had said that he did not read newspapers. He wished that the right hon. Gentleman did read newspapers, and that he had seen the letters which appeared last week from leading Nonconformists of this country. He would there have discovered a determination that they would not be taxed against their consciences for the teaching of a religion which they did not subscribe to, while in their own case they had themselves

to pay for the religious teaching they desired. This Amendment was a preliminary skirmish. The real great contest would come when they arrived at the Amendment of which the First Lord had given notice, but every opportunity must be seized of warning the Government against the mighty wave of passion that they would have to face unless the Bill was modified, and Amendments of this kind accepted. The Government were doing a great disservice to the parish clergy. Some hon. Members opposite did not understand the intense mistrust, he might almost say the hatred, of the clergymen of the Established Church in some parts of the country. [Cries of "No."] Then they did not know their countrymen, and they were legislating for a class they did not understand. They had not yet realised the strength of the religious sentiment of the working-class portion of the Dissenters in the country. It was proposed to give to the clergy practical control of schools which the people paid for out of their rates and taxes. The representatives of the people were to have no effective control whatever in the management of these schools. That was the case against the proposal. The Nonconformists were to be rated in order that the clergy might have sole control and management of national schools. This was the view of the case put forth moderately. [Laughter.] They would find it was put forth with moderation when they compared it with what they had to meet in the country. He hoped the Government would yet see their way to accept the modification proposed in the Amendment, though he did not expect they would. They were rushing forward towards a great national crisis in ecclesiastical affairs. He was not concerned in small matters of detail; he was only concerned in the great central principle that they had no right to rate him for religious purposes. If what was now proposed became law there would be such a feeling of national resentment that no Government would be able to maintain themselves in office who did not modify, if not repeal, the Bill which was designed and supported by Church influence, and drawn as though for the purpose of insulting

Nonconformists. This Bill was a challenge to the manhood of the dissenting working men, and they would not be slow to accept it if by brute force the measure was placed upon the Statute-book.

Mr. LLOYD - GEORGE said the Amendment really raised the question of uniformity of management — whether there should be the same management for Board schools and voluntary schools. It was the one Amendment that raised the question of the Scottish system. The First Lord of the Treasury had commended the Scottish system as thoroughly logical, and, therefore, he ought to commend his hon. friend's Amendment to the House. He did not think it necessarily destroyed the denominational character of the schools. Two safeguards

would still remain for the sectarian part of education. The first was the buildings, which were the property of the denominations to which they belonged. A denomination would be able to say "If you don't permit us to give the religious education that suits our denomination we can withdraw these buildings, and put you to the expense of providing others." The second safeguard was that the managers would be elected by the parents who sent their children to the school. That was the Scottish system, and they might depend upon it that the religious teaching was dogmatic enough.

(6.28.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 120 ; Noes, 273. (Division List No. 308.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H'ry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Banes, Major George Edward
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst'ne)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H'rb't John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor (Sw'nsea)
Jones, William (Carnarv'nshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mellor, Rt. Hon. John William
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Phillips, John Wynford
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)

Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Russell, T. W.
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudders'd.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Roberts and
Mr. Alfred Hutton.

Mr. Broadhurst.

NOES.

- Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Ambrose, Robert
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Chas. William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shropshire)
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
 Delany, William
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dillon, John
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doogan, P. C.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Field, William
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of London)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Lincoln)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (Brynmor)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambridge)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midlothian)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (London)
 Hammond, John
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harrington, Timothy
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Horner, Frederick William
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Keewick, William
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawrence, William F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 McCann, James
 McKean, John
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robert Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. Walthamstown
 Morgan, Hon. Fred. (Monmouthshire)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert

Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, Jno. E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Rennant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, Hn. M. W. (Stalybr'dge)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thom.
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)

Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, HC (North'mb. Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt Hn J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Valentia, Viscount

Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lynn)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt Hn J. Powell (Birm)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Lodd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. TREVELYAN said he wished to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he did not think that the simplest way of accomplishing the end of making a difference between the County Councils and the Councils of boroughs and urban districts distinct, would be to insert the words which he proposed in his Amendment. The Clause would run as follows:—“(a) Where the local education authority is the County Council, it shall have a body of managers consisting of.” Then the next line as to the number of managers would be omitted, and, when they came to (b) it would read, “where the local education authority is the council of a borough or urban district that authority may appoint a number of managers.” He begged to move that Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he understood that the intention of the hon. Gentleman was to draw a distinction between the borough and urban district schools and the County Council schools. He had drafted an Amendment to carry out that object, but it would come on in the big Amendment after the word “shall.” That would be a more convenient place for it. The sub-section of his Amendment would run thus, with the inserted Amendment which he proposed:—“All public elementary schools provided by the local education authority shall, where the local education authority is a council of the county, appoint a number of managers, etc,” down to “minor local authority.” Then it would run, “where the local education authority is the council of a borough or urban

district, they may, if they think fit, appoint a body of managers of such numbers as they may determine.” That, he thought, would meet the object of the hon. Gentleman.

MR. BRYCE said he wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he was satisfied that that was compatible with the words the Committee had already passed.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought so.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that perhaps they might start with his Amendment now. He did not desire to make any long speech —

MR. M'KENNA said that on a point of order he wished to ask the ruling of the Chairman as to whether the Amendment was in order. He submitted that though the substance of the Amendment might be germane to the Clause, still the form of it was such as to be an alternative to Clause 7. The proper course would be to move it as a new Clause.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE contended that the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment was an Amendment to sub-Section (e) of Clause 8, and ought to be moved to that sub-Section and not to Clause 7. Whenever an Amendment was germane to something in a subsequent Clause the Chairman had invariably ruled it out of order in regard to the Clause under

discussion at the time. This Amendment dealt with the number and proportion of managers, and the result of this Amendment, if carried, would be that sub-Section (e) would have to be left out of Clause 8.

* THE CHAIRMAN: This Clause deals with the management of schools, and clearly all matters that are relevant to the management of schools can be dealt with on this Clause. It is quite true that sub-Section (e) of Clause 8 seems also to deal with the management of schools. I do not profess to be an expert draftsman, but I should have thought that sub-Section (e) of Clause 8 ought to have come under Clause 7, because the whole question of management is dealt with in Clause 7. The hon. Member for North Monmouthshire suggests that this proposal is an alternative, and therefore cannot be raised here. I should say that the Amendment of the First Lord of the Treasury is an elaboration, but not a destruction, of Clause 7, and I do not think it is of so different a character as to justify me in ruling it out of order. It is a mere elaborating proposal, and we often have elaborating Clauses.

MR. M'KENNA pointed out that Clause 7 provided that all public elementary schools should be managed by managers appointed under Section 15 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, and in the case of schools not so provided by the persons who were the managers for the purposes of the Elementary Education Acts, 1870 to 1900. In the amended Clause now proposed by the First Lord of the Treasury, these two proposals were dropped, and an entirely different proposal was raised. Under these circumstances he submitted that this Amendment was not a mere elaboration but a wholly distinct proposal, and the whole purpose of Clause 7 was altered. Therefore, he submitted that there could not be a clearer case of this proposal being an alternative one, which ought to be moved as a new Clause.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I cannot take the view of the hon. Member upon this point. I grant that it is a considerable change, but it seems to be fairly relevant to the Clause.

(6.50.) MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought the Committee would feel that the ruling which had just been delivered from the Chair was at all events in accordance with the views of a very large number of hon. Members who wished to endeavour to amend this Clause, and had put down Amendments on the Paper. Although he admitted that his Amendment greatly expanded the Clause, yet his proposal was quite in harmony with the original Clause. He noticed an Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen which not only provided, as his Amendment provided, an elaborate scheme of management, but it was an absolute contradiction of the Clause to which his proposal was an Amendment. Therefore he had not gone so far as the right hon. Gentleman in endeavouring to carry out this change. He did not think it would be necessary to say much in moving his Amendment, but he would like to preface what he had to say by reminding the Committee, as he thought he should have to remind them again and again, that they were not now dealing with the control of secular education in these schools nor with the authority that had the control of, or was responsible for, these schools. He had heard the speech of the hon. Gentleman the Member for Leicester, in which he had denounced this Bill as withdrawing all management from the parents and giving it all over to the clergymen of the parish. He was not going to discuss that point. Controversial as this Clause was, or had been made, it did not deal with the fundamental, supreme local authority dealing with education. That authority was the local education authority; and the managers, whether of voluntary schools, or of schools provided by the local education authority, possessed, and could only possess, a very subordinate position indeed as regarded anything connected with the secular education of the schools.

What were the plans that had been pressed upon them for providing this management? There was not much controversy between them, he thought, as regarded the schools provided by the education authority. He had already intimated his intention of accepting an

Amendment modifying the proposal of the Government in the direction desired on both sides of the Committee, and he did not think there ought to be much dispute as to the management of provided schools. Except possibly that he might be asked, both with regard to provided schools and voluntary schools, what was the object of introducing the parents? It might seem a fanciful arrangement, and it certainly was not in accordance with any educational precedent that he was aware of; but, on the whole, he was disposed to say, though he should not think of making it an important Government question, that it was a gain where they had the parent of the child on the management body. The parents of the children, he thought, had means of information as to what went on in the schools from the children's point of view—which was worth remembering—that other managers were not likely to have. He thought there was something to be said for the scheme he had suggested. At all events, it carried out that object, if it were a good object, without attempting the impossible, or nearly impossible, task of having a separate register of parents, and all the elaborate machinery which an individual register required.

He passed to the voluntary schools, and he asked whether any of the plans that had been suggested were really so good as the one the Government had proposed. It had been suggested that half the management should be appointed by the popularly-elected bodies, and it had been suggested that a majority should be given to the popularly-elected bodies. Both those schemes, whatever else could be said of them, were open to the objection, which was really vital from their point of view, that they would absolutely undenominationalise the schools. [Opposition cries of "No."] That never was part of their original scheme; it was not part of it now; and he did not think the Committee ought to adopt either of them. Another plan which had been suggested was that there should be six managers, as proposed by him in his Amendment, but that only two of those should be members of the denominational bodies, two should represent the parents, and two the authority, but that all that concerned

the denominational and religious education should be in the hands of the two members who represented the denomination. It was true that that, in form, and, possibly, in a majority of cases in substance, would make and keep the schools denominational schools; but he thought it would be to introduce a wholly unworkable instead of a workable system. It would have another grave defect, of which he would say something presently. But the first objection was almost enough. They were going to have the teacher selected by the two managers representing the denomination, but, when he was selected, the teacher was to be subject to the supervision of the whole body, which would be very differently composed from the fraction which elected it, and they would inevitably have an amount of local difficulty and friction, in many cases, in their body of management which, he thought, would be absolutely ruinous to the smooth working of the system. That was a practical objection.

But there was another objection which he felt very strongly, and which, he was quite sure, neither the Committee nor the country should lose sight of. He had been charged—and the Government had been charged—with doing his best to throw the whole religious teaching into the hands of the parsons; to make it as denominational as possible; as absolutely outside any popular element as possible; and as wholly confined to the narrow circle of what, in some cases, was described as religious bigotry. That was what the plan he was criticising would do, and that was what the plan of the Government would not do. By the plan he was criticising the selection of the teacher, and the whole of the regulations of the denominational teaching in the schools would depend on two men out of the whole body of six managers. Under the plan of the Government the whole of the six managers were equally concerned in the selection of the teacher, and in the regulations of the religious curriculum. There were those who had said that there would be an undue influence of the clerical element in these schools. That element, obviously, was diluted under the plan of the Government, but it would be concentrated

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under the plan he had criticised. In the latter shape it appeared to him in its most virulent form, if he might use an uncomplimentary adjective, and in the former in its most diluted form. The majority of the six managers of these schools would obviously be laymen. ['Oh!'] At all events, the number of cases in which there were four of the clergy available to be managers of the schools must be very few; and he was quite sure that it would be as repulsive to the great body of Churchmen, of Wesleyans, or of Roman Catholics, to see four managers out of the six so chosen as it would be to any hon. Gentleman opposite. From this point of view, the Bill had, in his judgment, received an avalanche of unjust criticism. The plan he proposed seemed to him incomparably better than the plan which had been contrasted with it. That plan, he objected, was in some respects more denominational than that which he recommended, but it was unworkable, and, above all, it would make the clerical element in the management unduly prominent. In these circumstances he thought the Committee would do well to accept this modification, if it was indeed a modification, of the original proposal. Much was gained by raising the number from three to six, and keeping the proportion the same. It not only avoided the criticism, which was very prominent in some of their earlier debates, that undue clerical influence was to be feared, but it avoided the total or possible exclusion of the locality from any management or interest in its own school. There were to be two representatives of popularly-elected bodies; one of them must be, and the other often would be, somebody locally interested in the school; one of them must be a parent, and therefore, in close touch with the needs of the children and the sentiments of the parents. This amended form of their original proposal was intended to be an honest endeavour, while keeping the denominational character of the school, to admit a local and an elective element. He believed the system would work to the satisfaction of the parents and those interested in the schools in ninety-nine hundredths of the country; and he was perfectly sure that, whatever other

reproach it might be open to, it was not open to that class of reproach which he most often heard levelled against their proposals.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 38 and 39, to leave out the words 'shall be managed in the case of schools'"—(*Mr. Balfour.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

(7.6.) MR. TREVELYAN said the Amendment raised two issues, viz., the amount of representation which the locality was to have on the managing body of schools described in the Bill, as provided by the local education authority, and the popular claim to representation on the managing body of voluntary schools. As to the first and less controversial question, the decision as to the amount of representation to be given to the urban districts and village councils was a matter of great importance, as regarded the effective working of the Bill. In the counties, the managing bodies for the urban districts and villages would be very far removed from the local education authority. There ought to be on the managing committees, people who knew the district, and care should be taken that no friction was caused by people being imposed on a district against the wishes of the inhabitants. Above all, there ought to be on that body persons chosen by the people of the locality, in order that the latter might be given a sense of proprietorship in the schools. The local Education Committee, chosen by the County Council, was a long way from the villages and the urban districts, the schools of which it would manage, and yet these places had, hitherto, through their School Boards, managed their schools themselves. In Yorkshire and Lancashire there were districts which for thirty years had had the whole of the management of the schools in their own hands, and had conducted it to the satisfaction of the people, and yet under this Bill they were in future to be dependent upon the judgment and the charity of the County Council in the selection of the majority of the managers of their schools. That would inevitably lead to friction in many

urban districts and industrial centres. Under the Bill, one-third only of the managers were to be appointed by the locality. What would happen? He had in mind a village in Warwickshire, where for a long time they had had a School Board. To that Board they had elected the local grocer and doctor, and two or three artisans, but they had refused to choose the clergyman, not from any religious prejudice, but because they did not think him a competent man. Now, however, the County Council would appoint two-thirds of the Committee, and they were almost certain to lay down the principle that on this Committee the clergyman of the district should have a seat. ["Why?"] In most of the southern counties, where the squires were predominant, it was the opinion of the squires that the person who should manage the education of the district was the clergyman—["No"]—and it was not unnatural, having so little local knowledge, that they should lay down some general rule such as that the clergyman must be on the managing body. At any rate, it would be very difficult for the County Council to select anything like the sort of men who would be chosen by the people of the district, as only the latter could know the character of the more humble members of the community. Yet these were the very people who, in many cases, had done more to improve education in the villages than those in the higher walks of life; and it would be a serious loss if the inhabitants of the locality were no longer to be able to choose the managers of their schools.

Passing to the larger question of the management of the voluntary schools, he did not think the right hon. Gentleman pretended that there was any very serious concession in his new proposals. Many on that side of the House were thoroughly sick of the religious bickering on this question, and in looking around for a remedy, even before the introduction of the present Bill, had come to the conclusion that a system of universal School Boards could not be acceptable to the whole community, or offer a final solution of the question. But he desired to explain why he thought the proposals

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of the Government were hopeless as a final solution, and to indicate a possible policy upon which the Committee might agree as a tendency of the final solution. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman aimed at striking a balance between two different claims. There was the claim that when public money provided for almost the whole of education, the public should have the predominant voice in its management; and there was the equally valid claim that an opportunity should be provided for those who desired it to give special religious and dogmatic teaching to their children. The right hon. Gentleman proposed to meet the difficulty by a feeble compromise, which certainly those who cared for public control could not for a moment accept. But in some parts of Australia, and especially in New South Wales, a very successful attempt had been made to deal with the question in a different way. The claims on both sides had been admitted to the full. The principle was definitely laid down that the public, in virtue of the fact that it provided almost all the money, was to have absolute control, and, at the same time, every one had a right to claim for his children the special teaching he desired, and in New South Wales the denominationalists were permitted to go into the schools and give that special teaching. That system was accepted by the Church of England in Australia as a thorough and complete success; and to such an extent were the facilities availed of, that in 1897 there were no fewer than 28,000 children in the diocese of Sydney being taught in this special manner. He suggested that some such system was the only possible solution of the question in England. It was true that it would fail to meet one serious difficulty of the situation, viz., the demand of a certain number, though he believed not the majority, of Churchmen and of Roman Catholics to have the schools completely in their own hands, and with the religious tone they desired. No doubt it was unsatisfactory that in Australia the Roman Catholics stood outside the national system. Nobody would propose that such should be the case here, but there was a way in which the difficulty could be met. If the voluntary schools were to have full power of

going to the rates, of receiving these immensely increased grants from the central Government, and no longer to have to maintain the schools out of voluntary subscriptions, there would have to be some such system as he had described, unless they were to have perpetual and violent friction. To Roman Catholic schools and a certain number of Church of England schools, which would not fall in with such a system, he suggested a smaller grant should be given from central funds, and no assistance from the local rates. The bulk of the people of this country would not consent permanently to accept a system under which they provided practically the whole of the cost of the maintenance of the schools, and yet were in a minority on the managing body. He deeply regretted that the Government had not taken the opportunity of endeavouring to find some method by which both sides on this question would be satisfied.

*MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) supposed this proposal was intended to illustrate the regard the Government had for the sacred right of parents to have their children brought up in the way they desired. The result was that out of six managers one was to be a parent, and he was to be chosen, not by the other parents, but by some other body. If that was the attitude of the Government towards that sacred right of which they had heard so much, it was an irony on all that had been said by the right hon. Gentleman and his supporters in the course of these debates. Those who opposed this proposal admitted the right of the parents, but contended that it should form part of the denominational, not of the public, control; and that what the right hon. Gentleman should have done was to have given the parents some representation, which representation should have come out of the majority, and not the minority, of the managing body. Public control was to be represented by two managers out of six, and now one of those two was to be given to the denominational party. If the right hon. Gentleman had said that out of the four managers appointed by the denomination two should be parents, he would have gone far to meet the Opposition on this point; but the Amendment, instead of giving anything, took away from the

little they had before. The right hon. Gentleman had been asked for bread, and had given a stone. The public voice on the Committee would be practically non-existent, as the person appointed by the County Council would probably be a busy man, unable to attend all the meetings; so that at many meetings important business would be transacted without any real representative of the public being present, as the one parent would really be the representative of a private interest.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES), BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

(Mr. J. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Penrith, in the Chair.)

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed—

“In page 2, lines 38 and 39, to leave out the words ‘shall be managed in the case of schools.’”—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question again proposed, “That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause.”

*(9.0.) MR. WHITLEY, continuing his speech, said he thought the situation might be fairly summed up by saying that, whereas under the Bill the item of public control was to be 2 in 6, under the concession it was to be 1 in 6. The percentage of popular control was to be reduced under the clause. He had been sceptical for a long time about the real value of the “sacred right of parents,” but now the Government had themselves put that value at one-sixth of the control in the management of the schools. That was not at all satisfactory, and he thought they would feel justified in taking the Amendment of the First Lord as a direct challenge on the items of popular control and the representation of parents. The

first Government Amendment was really no concession to the principles for which they were fighting, and intended to continue to fight until the Bill was passed.

*MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said he had been a careful listener to the debates throughout, and he fully realised the difficulties of the situation: indeed, he believed that if an archangel from Heaven came down with a Bill on this subject he would create more enemies than friends. That being so it seemed to him that this was essentially a matter for compromise. To a considerable extent that had been done with regard to earlier clauses, and he thought, having regard to the enormous majority of the Government, it would be admitted it had not been used in a harsh and unconstitutional manner up to the present. But they now came to the crux of the Bill, to its very pith and marrow, to that portion which had raised the anger of the community in a way he had not seen since he had been connected with politics. When he heard last week that the Prime Minister proposed to make a concession, he experienced a great feeling of relief. He hoped for the end of religious warfare going on in the constituencies—warfare which did infinite harm to religion, and was particularly painful to men who objected to make party capital out of religious convictions. Unfortunately, he had been disappointed. The concession was no concession at all, and the Government had gone on the principle that if the Opposition declined to walk into a trap they would strengthen its jaws and push them into it. To his mind, the expenditure of public money without efficient public control was most serious. The point had been urged over and over again during the debates, but had never been met with any efficient counter-argument. In fact, it appeared to him that the Government had been unwilling to bind themselves to this principle, because they recognised how it would open the door to all kinds of jobbery and injustice. But if the principle was true, surely the corollary that the proportion of public money should be proportionate to the amount of public control was equally true. It was to establish the truth of this principle they were fighting that night. They recognised that the voluntary schools had done good work in the

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past. They recognised that the denominationalists had made great sacrifices for their denominations and for education. He did not think there was any desire to deprive them of anything to which they were justly and equitably entitled. They all recognised that the voluntary schools required more money, that they ought to have it, and that they rightly appealed to the public purse to help them. But surely the public ought to have control over these schools according to the amount of public money they contributed to their support. That seemed to be an absolutely fair and equitable solution, and if either side asked more than that it was surely making an improper and unconstitutional demand. On that basis he calculated that the public were entitled to representation to the extent of two-thirds of the managing bodies. At any rate he thought their position on the Opposition side of the House was perfectly clear. They ought to assert the principles which they had always held, and promise the country that when they obtained a majority they would give effect to those principles by legislation. He would give a word of warning to those who thought that by passing the Bill in its present form they were doing a good service to the Church of England. That was a mistake. He did not think any denomination could prosper which took an unfair advantage of its position in the House of Commons. The Church of England could not, any more than its humblest adherents in this House, serve both God and Mammon. And if an undue share of the loaves and fishes was to be taken for the Church of England they would do incalculable injury to the spiritual side of the Church of which he was a member. He thought also its powers for good would thereby be crippled in a serious and wanton manner.

MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) said he desired to lay before the Committee resolutions which had been passed by the County Council of Chester, and the Borough Council of Crewe. The inhabitants of Crewe numbered 40,000. The Borough Council, by twenty-two against one, passed a resolution stating that it was strongly of opinion the Bill now

before the House was a retrograde and not a progressive measure, and that it was unjust, inasmuch as it threw the whole cost of education in denominational schools on the rates and taxes of the whole community while giving the management and control of such schools to the denominations to which they were attached. Crewe was a place without a School Board. Throughout the whole of the county of Chester there were extremely few School Boards. The County Council of Chester, on which there was a considerable majority of Conservative members, passed a resolution by a majority of two to one stating that the number of managers of public elementary schools to be appointed by the local education authority was insufficient, and should be a majority. That was no catch vote. It was passed at a full meeting, of which sufficient notice had been given. These two expressions of opinion were typical of thousands throughout the country. The great principle embodied in these expressions had become household words in this country—namely, that representation should go with taxation. That was one of the strongest arguments against the Bill, and he was sure it would be used effectively against it.

MR. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid.) said the clergy would become very much better managers if they had to undergo some sort of popular election. Did they think that under this Bill a Primitive Methodist would ever be selected? The ministers of that denomination changed every two or three years, and it was almost a matter of certainty that they would not be appointed managers. Nonconformist ministers would feel greatly aggrieved towards an Act of Parliament which practically ousted them from their fair share in the management of the schools.

MR. EDWARDS (Radnorshire) said he would infinitely prefer that the Government should give a Parish Council power to appoint four instead of two managers. The Bill provided that the County Council should be the supreme authority in matters of education, and that the locality must be subordinate to the central body. It

was not necessary to the power of the central authority that the central authority should appoint a majority of the local managers. The power would be just the same even if the central authority appointed none of the managers. It was obvious, therefore, that if the central authority appointed only two local managers it would carry out the intention of the Government, that was to say the central authority would be in touch with the local authority. The First Lord of the Treasury seemed to think that the central authority would be more in touch with the locality if it appointed a majority of the local managers. He was bound to say that that was not the fact. He understood that the object of putting the locality in touch with the central authority was that the local education authority might have the benefit of the special knowledge possessed by persons living in the locality. The advantage of allowing the locality to choose the majority of the local managers was that they secured that persons should be appointed who were fully cognisant with the needs and requirements of the neighbourhood. Surely nobody was more competent to choose such persons than the locality itself. The County Council was chosen over a wide area. The individuals composing the County Council were not necessarily best judges of those who were in their own locality the fit and proper persons to be local managers. There was an element of uncertainty in the matter. If, however, the locality were left to decide it would know who the best persons were. Under the plan of the First Lord the four managers to be appointed by the central authority might all be local men. They ought to be local men, or they would not be fit and proper persons to do their work. But if they were all local men what could be the objection to allowing the locality to choose the majority of local managers? Hon. Members opposite were often claiming that the wishes of the parents should be regarded in the matter of the religious instruction given to the children. If it were a matter of principle that the parents should decide as to the religious instruction

of the children, he failed to see why they should not have the deciding voice in the matter of secular instruction. He could not see that they had any great advantage in the Amendment brought in by the First Lord, and he expressed the hope that the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to allow the locality more power in the choosing of local managers than it had now.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the new clause introduced by the First Lord of the Treasury opened up questions which concerned the whole of the United Kingdom, and it brought them face to face for the first time with the realities of the Question before them. The Committee had been asked to deal with schools not provided by the local authority in accordance with the conditions of the trusts. In the first place, they would require a definition of the expression "trust managers."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that phrase was entirely unknown to the law and upon the meaning of it the successful working of this Act would depend. That phrase introduced them to the real elements of this question. As a Scotch Member, having no interest in local disputes in this country, he submitted that they were bound to recognise this distinction. There were voluntary schools and voluntary schools. They were not all of the same order. He recognised a complete distinction, as to the rights to which they were entitled, between voluntary or denominational schools which were connected with a voluntary sect and those which were connected with a State Church. The law of the Church of England was part of the law of the land, and the law was what Parliament made it. He refused to recognise the Church of England as a sect at all. It was a great State institution unlike any other Church which had no connection with the State. Therefore, he suggested two points of distinction between purely voluntary schools which ought to have complete freedom, and those which came under the conditions of trust deeds which were bound to teach according to

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the law of the land. He held that they ought to know that the doctrine which was taught in schools said to be Church of England schools was really the doctrine of the Church of England. When endowments were given for the purpose of promoting the teaching of the doctrines of the Church of England the House had a right to insist that the doctrinal instruction in those schools should be really instruction in the doctrines of the Church of England.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) said the hon. Member who had just spoken had introduced a new element into the discussion, but it was one which he did not think would advance the businesslike consideration of this clause. The hon. Member had mentioned the fact that certain schools were managed under trust deeds, but that fact had been very well known for a great many years, and it had not been disclosed to them for the first time by the proposals made by the First Lord of the Treasury. The hon. Member opposite had laid down the principle that they should treat voluntary schools connected with the Church of England on a totally different principle to other denominations. That might be the hon. Member's notion of what was just, but when it came to be threshed out he did not think it would be found that many hon. Members would agree with that principle. He desired to thank the First Lord of the Treasury for having adopted a most valuable principle, which he himself had embodied in an Amendment he had placed on the Notice Paper—namely, that there should be combined representation of the county authority and the locality. He had the greatest confidence that the county authority would select representatives of local opinion on the management of the schools; but, in addition to that, the locality would desire to have some proportion of the representative body appointed directly by its own voice. He had suggested in his Amendment half and half; but so long as these two elements were combined in the managing body, he did not attach much importance to the proportion of the representation. The control had been given to the county authority, and the managers would have

to carry out their directions. The county representatives would be on the Board to see that the requirements of the county authority were properly carried out. Even an active minority, or one or two really efficient public representatives, would be quite sufficient to prevent abuses, and to see that the directions of the county authorities were carried out. He thought they would all recognise that the First Lord of the Treasury had made valuable improvements in this Bill by the proposals he had put forward.

(9.50.) DR. MACNAMARA said he was glad the Government had adopted the principle of throwing the maintenance of voluntary schools upon the public funds, and had given up all idea of trying to maintain them by voluntary contributions. He was glad they had now put these schools on the local rates, for that would render it impossible for parsimony any longer to appeal to piety for the money for those schools. But there were swift and certain consequences of that course of action which the Government were endeavouring to avoid—and that was, public control to the full of the public funds voted for those schools. He was at least glad that they had got a Government bold enough to take this matter by the horns, and throw over the voluntary contributor, and give them education entirely out of the public funds. But a most interesting matter arose in consequence of the position taken up by the Church of England. Up to a few years ago the Church of England was against rate aid, and all for State aid. The Roman Catholics believed in rate aid. They were willing to make a contract in regard to secular education if the Government would leave them their religious education. The Roman Catholics contended that the Government did not pay them sufficiently for secular education, for which they did not receive a fair return. That was a perfectly logical position to take up. Until within three or four years ago the Church of England was violently against rate aid, and all in favour of getting further aid from the State. Some years ago Dr. Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury, said he was in favour of grants from the Exchequer,

because aid from the rates implied interference by the ratepayers with the management of the schools. They might gerrymander this as much as they liked, but if the voluntary schools were to receive aid from the rates, they must eventually be brought under public control. The position of the First Lord of the Treasury was a pathetic one in this controversy. He was beset by hard taskmasters, but he must know, as a student of English history, that if the voluntary schools came upon the rates, in the long run, which in this case would be a short run, the ratepayers must have a hand in the control of the schools. The Government were trying an impossible task in endeavouring to avoid the consequence of rate aid. In a short time he believed these schools would lose their distinctive character and become national schools in the best sense of the word. The voluntary subscriptions were paid by many people in order to avoid the School Board rate, and the amount of subscriptions would fall off as the rate became leviable. Estimating that only an eleventh of the cost of maintenance would come from voluntary sources, he said it seemed to him to be quite an untenable position to take that this entitled voluntary subscribers to two-thirds of the representation on the management. There was the capital value of the school premises, but he did not understand that because fifty years ago somebody built a school largely from public money, that for all time gave the managers a lien on the consciences of the children of the district; that did not give the right to keep popular representation for perpetuity in a minority. The consequence of coming on the rates could not be avoided; and the swift and inevitable result must be that schools would lose their denominational character and pass into the control of those who found the money for their maintenance.

MR. ERNEST GRAY thought that his hon. friend had lost sight of the control which would be exercised over these schools by the new education authority. In the discussions of the Bill, exaggerated importance had been attached to the duties and powers of the managers. One

would think, from what had been said, that the managers of a voluntary school at the present time had an entirely free hand to do what they liked with regard to the education of the children, and to do exactly what they liked with the money granted by Parliament for the maintenance of the school. No one knew better than the hon. Member for Camberwell that that was not the case. At present the managers of a voluntary school, whether Anglican or Catholic, were bound hand and foot. They must carry out the whole of the instructions of the day school code, and there were the inspectors of the Board of Education to see that these instructions were observed. That was their position now. Their accounts must be audited, though not in as public a manner, perhaps, as was proposed. The changes that were made in this Bill on the present system were so vast that he wondered the opposition did not come from the Church party, from those who were supposed to have this intense desire to maintain their separate control in these schools. Surely those who talked of the necessity of public control, who followed the changes that the Bill made, were not the people who should adversely criticise the proposal of the Government. By paying the whole of the Government grants direct to the new education authority instead of to the managers of the schools, they secured complete control of the secular instruction. The curriculum was laid out for them centrally and locally, and they could not vary the secular instruction by one iota. In the appointment of teachers there was the veto of the Board of Education and of the local authority. The local authority could ensure that any man appointed, either as a head or as an assistant master, must hold the qualifications necessary for that post, and could prevent any jobbery in the appointment of the teachers. Moreover, there was to be a veto on the dismissal of the teachers. The teaching staff and the money both being in the hands of the new authority, what really had local managers to do? They would have the control of the religious teaching in their hands, but even there their powers were not quite unlimited. It was the duty of the education authority to report to the Board of Education any breach of the conscience clause, and therefore the managers were

not quite free in the matter of religious instruction. If they were going to take from the managers of the schools their control of the religious instruction given therein, let them say so at once. The proposal to appoint one-half, or more than one-half, of the managerial body really contemplated, disguise it however much they might, the entire destruction of denominational instruction in the schools. [HON. MEMBERS on the Opposition Benches: No, no.] There was a possibility that a change might be made by which religious instruction might be removed from the schools altogether. [Renewed cries of "No, no."] He repudiated the assumption running through the debate that there was a large amount of malpractice going on at the present time in the voluntary schools. There were some 14,000 voluntary schools, and in not more than two or three cases in the course of a year did any malpractice occur worthy of a Question in this House. Where there was trouble the parents of the children in the district could prevent it. The hands of the parents would be materially strengthened under the Amendment now before the Committee. It was said that one person nominated as manager by the education authority and two trust managers was exactly the same thing as four trust managers and two nominated by the education authority. That was not the case. The proportion was the same, but the strength of the two would outweigh the strength of the one. The two managers who were representatives of the local authority could report any appearance of mismanagement or malpractice, and the local authorities could always stop that by curtailing the funds of the schools. It seemed to him that they were obtaining, under this Amendment, an improvement on the Bill as originally drafted. He must say that the control of these voluntary schools, which, he agreed, was inevitable when they gave them rate aid, would become as perfect as it could be made, short of excluding denominational teaching from the schools altogether. What were the trustees which the Committee were talking so much about? Some thousands of them consisted, in each parish, of the vicar, the licensed curates, and the churchwardens, one of whom was popularly

Mc. Ernest Gray.

elected every Easter. He had more than once taken part in such elections of the churchwarden in order to secure a representation of the locality on the Board of Management. He knew that the parents, by means of that representative, had considerable control. The elective representative could report all that passed *in camera*, and effectually put a stop to anything like the suspicion of malpractices. He had no hope, certainly no expectation, when this Bill was introduced that the power of the present managers would be reduced to the small limits they now found in the Bill. Did the Committee realise that in many cases more than half of the managerial body would now have to stand aside, and leave the whole control of the school, such as it was, to four of their colleagues nominated by the local educational authority? If the managers appreciated what was wanted by this Bill, if they realised and accepted the position frankly, and tried to work it in the spirit intended, then he believed the Amendment would go far indeed to secure peace in the village schools and communities. Having observed the working of the voluntary system for twenty-five years, he could say honestly and fearlessly that there was not the mismanagement in their ranks which many imagined, and that they had not used these schools as proselytising establishments. Here and there a case might occur, but as a rule the spirit of the Education Act was carried out fairly and fully by the managers of these schools. They were accepting now a very large measure of control, and he believed that when this Bill was in working operation, both in town and country, the stray cases of malpractice which had occurred would become impossible. The ratepayers would find that they had a real control over these schools, and that their suspicion of the parson and the squire had been very largely unfounded. The parson took a real interest in education, and the squire had drawn his cheque to make good deficiencies. They would be very largely relieved of that duty. [Opposition cries of "Oh, oh!" and ironical laughter.] Why should hon. Gentlemen opposite protest against that? This Amendment, therefore, ought to give a very large

measure of satisfaction. Many of the voluntary schools had been doing the same work, both secular and religious, as the Board schools, and they had been worked with the same free spirit. Where the management was now restricted to the vicar of the parish and the squire, they would have joined to them others in the district to share the burden. The fact was that in many cases hitherto they could not get parents to join the Board of Management because of their fear of financial responsibility. He was very glad that those who had borne the burden so well in the past would now get relief, and that the ratepayers would obtain direct representation on the managerial body.

(10.25.) MR. BRYCE said that they might all agree with the hon. Gentleman in two things—first, that this Bill would very largely indeed relieve the parson and the squire from their liabilities; and, second, that this Amendment marked a very critical part of the Bill. The First Lord of the Treasury had admitted that this was the part of the Bill which caused the greatest difficulty, and excited the greatest controversy. It threw, for the first time, the burden of maintaining denominational teaching on local taxation. That was the novelty of the Bill. It had always been hitherto held that local rating must be followed by local control; and it was because the Bill denied that that it had received so much opposition. This Amendment did not raise the religious difficulty directly, but it was closely connected with it, because, great as were the objections which many hon. Members entertained to having denominational schools at all, or to supporting denominational schools out of public money, these objections might be largely alleviated, if not altogether removed, if sufficient public control were provided, and if they knew that the abuses of the old managers complained of could always be removed by the presence of competent representatives of the local authority to see fair play. There were many points in the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment which required a great deal of discussion. For instance, that part which dealt with the alteration in the

management of the ex-Board schools and the grouping of voluntary schools in the same area with the ex-Board schools. There was no denying that this Clause had been received with great disappointment. He did not blame the right hon. Gentleman for having caused that disappointment. It was quite true that some hon. Members, on both sides of the House, sprang rather hastily from the interpretation of the right hon. Gentleman's words to the conclusion that he was going to give that majority on the Board of Management which they all desired. There had been almost a fervid expression of satisfaction at the words used by the right hon. Gentleman which would not have been shown if they had read the words of the Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman evidently conveyed to the mind of some hon. Members a meaning which he did not intend to convey. He did not blame the right hon. Gentleman, but there was this disappointment. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the term "concession." He objected altogether to the use of that word "concession." They were not in an Oriental country, to be satisfied with words of grace being dropped upon them. If the right hon. Gentleman made an alteration in this Bill, they presumed that he did so because he thought it would bring his Bill into accord with the sentiments of the people. They must look at all these alterations which the right hon. Gentleman made, only from one point of view, viz., whether they were likely to meet the wishes of the people and to make the Bill a better Bill. He did not care whether they met their wishes or not; he only wanted to know whether they would meet the popular sentiment. He might be allowed to say that the right hon. Gentleman had been entirely misled in regard to the wishes of the people, and he ought to know that there had been the deepest dissatisfaction, not merely amongst the Liberal Party and the Nonconformist bodies, but amongst a large proportion of the members of the Church of England. [Ministerial cries of "No, no."] Hon. Members might not think so, but that was the impression he had received from conversing with many people who did not share his political opinions, and from reading the reports of the meetings of

Mr. Bryce.

the County Councils. That Conservative body the County Council of Essex desired that all these schools should be under boards of managers created by the local authority, and the same opinion had been expressed by the County Council of Cheshire. The Association of County Councils had also passed a similar resolution, insisting upon the element of popular control as represented in the nominees of the local education authority. How could, under these circumstances, hon. Members opposite represent that this was a demand made by the supporters of Board schools? He believed that the overwhelming majority of the County Councils desired popular control; and if the right hon. Gentleman postponed the Bill for two months, he, for one, would wait for the decision of the County Councils upon it with perfect unconcern. What was the position at present? The House should remember that the dissatisfaction of which he spoke, and which had re-appeared on this new Clause becoming known, had existed for a long time past. It was due to the fact that in about 8,000 rural parishes the only school was one which was under the control of the clergy of the Church of England and their nominees.

*MR. TALBOT (Oxford University) said that this was an entire misconception. In many of these schools there was a large admixture of managers quite free from clerical control.

MR. BRYCE said that, in point of fact, where there was a trust deed it usually provided that all the managers should be members of the Church of England—the vicar, the curates, and the churchwardens. It was a matter of common knowledge that these bodies were, in point of fact, under the control of the clergyman, who was a most active member of the Board of Managers, all from a perfectly good motive, no doubt, and everybody knew that they had done a good work for education. At any rate, there was no question that in these 8,000 parishes the school was held to belong to the Church of England, and that its management ought to be confined to the Church of

England. It was the only school available, with rare exceptions, no matter what the population might be. The grievance took three forms. In the first place, the clergyman and his friends were practically omnipotent, and the local people had no voice in the management. That system might work very well where the clergyman possessed the confidence of the people, but where the clergyman was not popular, and where he introduced forms of service in the church which the bulk of the people disapproved of, they could not expect the people to be satisfied with the administration of the schools by such a clergyman. In a second place, although by common consent and agreement the Nonconformists, as a rule, desired to have religious instruction, Bible instruction, moral instruction based upon the Bible, they were obliged to do one of two things — either to consent to their children receiving Bible instruction mixed up with the Catechism or to forego religious instruction altogether. The third grievance was the grievance of the teachers. He had read a letter which impressed him very much, which appeared in *The Times*, by Cardinal Vaughan, in which his Eminence compared our position with that of Germany. It was evident that the Cardinal thought it would improve our position if we adopted the German system. But when the contrast was made between them, the position of the Protestants in Germany was as unlike as anything could be with the position of those who objected to the denominational system in the English rural parishes. The Protestants in Germany practically all belonged to the denomination which called itself Evangelical. There were practically no Dissenters amongst the German Protestants, and the Protestant dogmatic instruction amounted to very little. If hon. Members thought that they were going to secure a religious atmosphere by the system which prevailed in the Protestant schools in Germany, and that they were going to have the children brought up with a profound respect for dogma, they were very much mistaken. What Cardinal Vaughan had probably in his mind was not the case of the Protestants in

Germany, who worked very well with the German Catholics where the population was almost entirely Catholic, but that of the Catholics. The case of the Catholics differed from the case of the Protestant schools in two points. In the first place, among the Roman Catholics the priest was responsible for the people, and it was the duty of the people to follow the priest. The Roman Catholic layman took his faith from the Church, and the priest was the authorised exponent of his faith in the sense in which the Protestant minister was not the authorised exponent of the Protestant faith. There was no question on the part of the Catholics of dissatisfaction with, or dissidence from, the Catholic faith as it was taught or in the management of the Catholic schools as administered by the priests. There they had a fundamental difference between the position of the Catholic laity towards their priesthood and the position of the Protestant laity towards their minister. He was not speaking on behalf of the small dissenting laity, but on behalf of the large section of the Church of England laity who did not consider the new schools of the Church of England as being exponents of the faith as they received and believed it. The other part of the Catholic case was that the Catholic schools were, with few exceptions, situated in places where there was also a Protestant school, therefore they were entitled to treat the Catholic school on a different basis from that of the Protestant episcopal school in the rural parish. How did the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment meet this position? He did not think it removed this grievance in the least. The right hon. Gentleman said on Saturday† that his Amendment would make the position of the Dissenters better.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not refer to this Amendment on Saturday.

MR. BRYCE said the right hon. Gentleman referred to the Bill, and his case was that it did not make the position of the Nonconformists one whit better than it was before. In one sense he made it perpetual and made the grievance worse than it was before, because he removed the check they had under the

† Speech of Mr. Balfour at Fulham.

old system, in that the subscribers were obliged to support the school, whereas its support was now placed on the rates. He did not think the minority of two-sixths of the representation and management of the schools worth having. One of these two managers would be appointed by the County Council, which was distant, and probably the person appointed by it would be a person of, same class and in sympathy with the four managers who constituted the majority. The parent representative would be no guarantee that the minority would represent the people. If the right hon. Gentleman had given direct representation of the parents, it would be a different thing. The parent was always represented by the First Lord as a man exceedingly anxious that his children should receive dogmatic instruction. If that was the case, why not trust the parents and leave the nomination of the majority of the managers to them? He could not see why they should not secure the denominational teaching in some other manner than by having a majority of denominational managers. He should have thought that might have been done, and it would have been quite compatible with the denominational character of the school.

The one argument upon which the First Lord appeared to rely, was that the schools must be denominational, and that the only securities for the preservation of denominational teaching was to have a majority of denominational managers. With the best possible wish to understand the right hon. Gentleman's logic, he confessed that he could not understand the two positions. He could not see why they should not secure denominational teaching by some other method. Surely they could put provisions in this Act to require the managers to maintain denominational teaching, and put those provisions under the protection of the County Council, and also give the County Council under the protection of the Board of Education to grant power to a minority of the managers or to any number of the parents or the ratepayers to appeal to the Board of Education or the County Council. Surely that could be done, and at the same time the denominational teaching might be safeguarded. He had sufficient faith in the goodwill

and fairness of the people of this country to believe that no body of managers would venture to disregard such provisions as he had suggested. Surely it might be arranged that where there was a sufficient number of children desiring a certain denominational teaching it might be adopted, and, on the other hand, where undenominational teaching was desired, that also might be adopted. Would it not be easy by having a body which would see fair play, thus disarming suspicion and jealousy, to arrange for the denominational teaching of the Church of England or any other school, and provide this by statute, placing it under the protection of the local authority and the Board of Education? That would maintain the connection of the school with the denomination, and would give all that the managers were entitled to require. That would be just as good a safeguard as they were now proposing, and it would be far more likely to conduce to harmonious working. He regretted that some scheme of this kind had not been introduced. With regard to the appointment of teachers, it was not for him to say what would be accepted. Suppose they thought there should be a teacher of the denomination to which the school belonged to give denominational teaching; suppose they put in a provision that where the denomination had a school it should have power to say that one of the teachers should belong to that denomination. He admitted that they would get all they desired in that way, but at the same time they would not violate what appeared to him to be a fundamental principle.

He regretted that the Government should maintain their object by a provision which would not only produce controversy in Parliament, but the greatest possible irritation and controversy in the country. The County Council would not have the power of allaying it, for it would not have much to do with the schools; it would not be supreme; it would be subject to the control of the Board of Education, and they all knew what it could do when under the control of one political party. [Ministerial cries of "Oh!"] The Board of Education did vary its policy from

time to time. He could give instances, he believed, of the Board of Education being accused of being at least deficient in the virtue of impartiality. [Sir J. GORST dissented.] The right hon. Gentleman would be hard put to it to show that this was not the case, but would have opportunity of doing so. The proposal of the Government would, in his opinion at any rate, do injury not only to a large section of the community, but to education. It would destroy the best hope of working the schools. It would do another injury by depriving the schools of that popular interest which ought to be their greatest support. One of the evils of the present system was to have the parish clergyman talking of "my school." ["Oh!"] It was best to teach the people to talk of their school. This was a question of civic right. He put it to the Committee as a question of teaching the people to care for their schools, and of giving the people that best interest in them which they would have by taking a proper share in their management.

(11.5.) Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that, with the long vista of further Amendments before them, he hoped the Committee would now finish that stage of his Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman made two constructive contributions to the new scheme of education. One was that the denominational character of the schools should be placed under the control, first of the County Councils, and then of the Board of Education. He could not imagine a more disastrous, and had it not been suggested by the right hon. Gentleman, he would have said a more ludicrous course.

Mr. BRYCE said he thought the right hon. Gentleman did not quite understand what he said, which was that the Act might declare the denominational character of the schools, and direct that this denominational character might be observed, and he only mentioned the County Council and the Board of Education as the authorities who, if anything were done inconsistent with the lines which the statute laid down, should see that the managers respected the statute.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not see any difference between this version

of the proposition and the brief abstract he gave of it. The proposal was that the County Councils and the Board of Education should become the guardians of denominationalism in this country. He could imagine nothing more destructive of denominationalism and nothing more absolutely ruinous both to the County Councils and the Board of Education. If that were the kind of proposal the right hon. Gentleman would propose if he were in the position of the Government—

Mr. BRYCE: I do not say that at all. I say it is better than your plan.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said it was the best plan the right hon. Gentleman had to suggest.

Mr. BRYCE: It is not in the least what we should propose.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said if the right hon. Gentleman had a still better plan locked up in his despatch-box, the Government would like to know what it was. The Government always liked to have the best plan, and the right hon. Gentleman had only given them a second best. The right hon. Gentleman's second constructive suggestion was that the various denominations of Protestants required different treatment from the Roman Catholics.

Mr. BRYCE said he did not wish to interrupt the right hon. Gentleman, but that should not be taken as his view.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he had done his best to interpret the position of the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman proceeded to describe the position of Roman Catholics, and the position of Protestants, and he understood him as saying that the two categories required different treatment. He did not believe that the country would stand that; he hoped it was also only a second best plan; and that if the right hon. Gentleman ever had to deal with the education problem, he would have a still better one. So much for the two constructive suggestions of the right hon. Gentleman. As to the right hon. Gentleman's two criticisms, the first was

that he did not think that the one-third minority would be worth having. His right hon. friend near him had made a hasty calculation—he was sure no one would dispute his right hon. friend's arithmetic—and assured him that the Members of the House who were opposed to the Government on this Bill, were much less than one-third. No one could say that that minority was ineffective, or that it had not had great effect and influence upon the course of events. If the right hon. Gentleman and his friends, with that relatively small phalanx, could do so much, and do it so long, upon this Question, he need not despair of the effect upon these Boards of management which the one-third minority provided by the Bill would be able to produce.

MR. BRYCE: We do not succeed in improving the Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was sorry the right hon. Gentleman said that. He had received such laudations from the other side for the Amendments he had already introduced, that it would be bitter to think that there was any tinge of insincerity in the very kind remarks that had been made. The right hon. Gentleman said the Bill did nothing to popularise control, and to bring a wider element into the management of these denominational schools. According to the right hon. Gentleman, the present state of things was that in about 8,000 schools there was "one man" management, the one man being the parson of the parish, who controlled both secular and religious education. Under the Bill, the whole of the secular education would be transferred to a popularly elected body. The right hon. Gentleman said he did not like that body. He said it would consist of squires and other unhappy people of that kind. But, at all events, it would be popularly elected. That body would have absolute and complete control of secular education in these schools. After all, secular education had something to do with national education. It was, he might remark, the main subject of the Bill, and it should not be left absolutely out of account, as being wholly alien. Religious education would be under the control, not of one man, and that man the parson of the parish, but of a Board of six. Of these, the parson would probably be the only

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

minister of religion, and three would be managers representing the denomination. Then there would be the minority of two, who would be connected neither directly nor indirectly with the denomination—at any rate, they would be nominated by the popularly elected body. That might be a good scheme or a bad scheme, but it was ludicrous to suggest that it left untouched the one man clerical management of these 8,000 schools; and it was ridiculous to go on discussing the Clause as if nothing had been done to meet the views of hon. Gentlemen and right hon. Gentlemen opposite. He was afraid he would have to address the Committee many more times before the Clause was disposed of; and, therefore, in mercy to them he would bring his present observations to a close. He did not think that the views of the Government had been treated quite fairly by hon. Gentlemen opposite, though he was sure they did not mean to misrepresent them in any way. His strong impression was that when the Bill was brought into working order, it would be found to give general satisfaction. However that might be, he ventured to suggest that the initial stage of the Amendment might now fittingly be brought to a conclusion.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said he wished to correct a statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Essex County Council had passed a certain resolution germane to the subject under discussion. The right hon. Gentleman was perfectly right; but when the right hon. Gentleman proceeded to state that the Essex County Council was a Conservative body he was speaking in the language of exaggerated hyperbole. The majority of the Essex County Council were of the same political opinion as the right hon. Gentleman himself, and if he were a Member of it he would find himself in the unusual position of being in a majority.

*MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said that to give control to denominational managers as distinguished from publicly-appointed representatives on the local boards of managers for elementary schools would operate most unfairly to Nonconformist parents and be prejudicial to the true interests of education. He would give an example so that

the Committee, by the illustration, would realise the situation. In a parish in Bedfordshire he knew of a case where a clergyman managed a school at the present time under a deed of trust; not only was he himself one of the managers, but he was allowed to place on the Board as many curates as he liked. The only other individuals on the Board must be communicants in the Church of England for three years; and they were to be elected only by those who attended the church and contributed to the schools. It would be perfectly absurd, after the passing of this Bill, to allow a body to be composed entirely of denominationalists of that kind. It did not make the slightest difference whether the squire's gardener would be elected on such a body, as its policy would be dictated by the parson, his curates, and the other members of the Church of England. He wished to pay a tribute of praise to the energy and ability with which many clergymen of the Church of England had carried on education in the schools under their control. Had these clergymen shown any intolerance towards Nonconformist children, undoubtedly many contributions from members of their

own Church would be withdrawn, as a protest against an arbitrary exercise of power. Then, again, at the present time, the parents had the power of establishing a School Board, and the parsons knew that they had that power. Under the provisions of the Bill, however, it would not be necessary for the parson to ask for contributions for the denominational schools, and Nonconformist parents would not be enabled to establish a School Board. Therefore, the two very powers which caused tolerant action to be exercised towards Nonconformists would be withdrawn. The First Lord of the Treasury alluded to the supreme power which would be vested in the County Councils; but the Vice President of the Council stated in reply to a question on 18th June that if a County Council appointed an Education Committee, that Committee need not ask for confirmation of any of its acts. Therefore, the representatives of the people would have no absolute control.

(11 23.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 93; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 309.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas (Gair)
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cremer, William Randal
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-Hayne, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
McKenna, Reginald
Middlemore, J. no. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, August's H'ny Eden

Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Russell, T. W.
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
Ure, Alexander
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone
and Mr. William M. Arthur

Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur (Griffith)
 Brodric, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shropshire)
 Bull, William James
 Bullard, Sir Harry
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, T. L. (Down North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Saville
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, William Bromley
 Delany, William
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dillon, John
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Doogan, P. C.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Eber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Hannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gordon, Maj. Evans. (T. R. H. mlets)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby. (Linc.)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (Bry. S. Edmunds)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill

Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Middle)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (Lond. & N. York)
 Hammond, John
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Lees, Sir Elliot (Birkenhead)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McAnn, James
 McKean, John
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hon. Fred. (Monmouth)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretyman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, H. C. (Northampton, Tyne-side)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanark)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donald
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrod and
 Mr. Anstruther.

(11.40) MR. WHITLEY moved to insert after "authority," in line 29, the words "or for the use of which any rent is paid by them." He thought the right hon. Gentleman would have no difficulty in accepting the Amendment, as it was really necessary to carry out the pledges of the Government. The differentiation of the two classes of managers had been based on the ground that the voluntary school managers were to provide schools free of any rent, but the word "provided" did not carry that understanding with it. The right to have a majority on the management of a voluntary school was a *quid pro quo* for the school being provided free of rent to the local authority, and it was only right that that should be made perfectly clear.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'or for the use of which any rent is paid by them.'"—(Mr. Whitley.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said his belief was that every school building for which any rent was paid by the local authority was a school provided by them. He would undertake, however, if the word "provided" did not cover such a case, to have words inserted at a subsequent stage.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid.) was not aware of any Act which declared that a school for which any rent whatever was paid was a school "provided" by the local authority. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to assent to the principle that whoever originally founded the school, if any rent by way of valuable consideration was paid by the local authority, that school was, under the Bill, to be a school "provided" by the local authority?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is so.

DR. MACNAMARA pointed out that, a month ago, when he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether it would be possible in future to charge the local authority any rent for a school, the reply he received was, "Certainly not," whereas now the right hon. Gentleman contemplated a charge for rent.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR explained that if a rent was charged, the school would cease to belong to the managers, and become the property of the local authority. He did not at all say that the trustees could not rent their school to the local authority, but if they did so, it would cease to be a voluntary school, and become a "provided" school.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether he was correct in supposing that if the trustees charged a rent, the school became a public authority school, the religious instruction became undenominational, and the management fell under the early part of Clause 7.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes.

MR. ERNEST GRAY asked what would be the position of schools which were partially transferred, the managers retaining control during the first hour of the day, during which hour religious instruction was given. Who would be the managers of such a school?

MR. M'KENNA thought the point just raised was extremely important, because if a school was partially transferred and the denominational managers retained the control, the appointment of teachers for secular as well as religious instruction would rest with the denomination. If, however, a partial transfer meant a transfer for all purposes, there might be undenominational teachers giving the religious instruction, and that would not satisfy hon. Members opposite.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS thought the word "provided" was very vague, and contended that a definition was absolutely necessary.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON thought the promise of the First Lord was satisfactory. The case referred to by the hon. Member for North West Ham was not likely to occur in future, because the reason trustees had partially transferred their schools in the past was that they had not the funds to defray the expense of the secular instruction, and that difficulty would now be removed.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said he was one of those unhappy beings called "squires," and as such was the owner of an unsectarian voluntary school. Under this Bill, would he be able not only to throw the whole expense of education on the county rate, but also get rid of the expense of maintenance, by the simple process of charging the local education authority a rent for the school?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the hon. Member could have done that at any moment through a School Board.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON pointed out that a School Board rate would then have been charged all over the parish, and he would have had to reduce his farm-rents to a greater extent than the amount of the rate.

MR. CORRIE GRANT pointed out that in some cases the amount of the subscriptions was not nearly sufficient to cover the annual cost of repairs, and, therefore, those schools would be unable to comply with the condition of sub-section (d) of Section 1 of Clause 8. The managers of these schools, under the right hon. Gentleman's definition, would be able to get over the difficulty by taking a rent from the local authority, and so be able to keep the school for all other purposes. In some cases the payment would fairly represent the value of the buildings, but, in others, it would be merely a nominal amount, accepted by the trustees in order to transfer the school. The definition of the right hon. Gentleman appeared to cover only the first of those cases.

MR. WHITLEY said that while he would be unwilling to press this question unduly, after the promise of the right hon. Gentleman, he thought the present was peculiarly the point at which the matter should be dealt with. The Committee were about to discuss the *quid pro quo*, and it was desirable that they should clearly understand what the *quo* was before they proceeded to consider the *quid* they were to give. The words he had placed on the Paper had been carefully thought out, and would entirely meet the intention expressed by the First Lord.

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

MIDWIVES BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

EDUCATION ACT, 1901 (RENEWAL) BILL

Read a second time, and committed for tomorrow.

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894, (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).

Return ordered, "showing, according to the Accounts for the twelve months preceding the 31st day of March, 1902, furnished to the Local Government Board under Section 1 (7) of the London (Equalisation of Rates) Act, 1894:—

- (1) The amounts paid during the year by the London County Council out of the Equalisation Fund under the Act to the Corporation of the City of London and each of the Councils of Metropolitan Boroughs to whom payments out of that fund were made.
- (2) The amount of the expenses incurred during the year by each of these authorities (a) under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, including expenses of scavenging streets; (b) in respect of lighting; and (c) in respect of streets (other than the expenses of scavenging); and—
- (3) The amount expended during the year by each such authority out of the sums received by them under the Act. (In continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 358, of Session 1901).—(*Mr. Grant Lawson.*)

POST OFFICE SITE (OBAN) DRAFT PROVISIONAL ORDER.

Ordered, That the Evidence taken before the Committee of this House on the Bill for the Callander and Oban Railway Act, 1897, be referred to the Commissioners appointed under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, to inquire into the Post Office Site (Oban) Draft Provisional Order, 1902.—(*The Lord Advocate.*)

Adjourned at a quarter after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 22nd July, 1902.

ROYAL ASSENT.
COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent—

1. Finance.
2. Royal Naval Reserve Volunteers.
3. Cremation.
4. Wild Birds Protection Acts Amendment.
5. British Museum.
6. Immoral Traffic (Scotland).
7. Police Reservists.
8. Prison Officers (Pensions).
9. Labour Bureaux (London).
10. University of Wales (Graduates).
11. Musical Copyright.
12. Pauper Children (Ireland).
13. London Government Scheme (Southwark).
14. Pilotage Provisional Order.
15. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2).
16. Oyster and Mussel Fishery Provisional Orders.
17. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2).
18. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3).
19. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5).
20. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8).
21. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9).
22. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11).
23. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 13).
24. Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 14).
25. Local Government Provisional Order (No. 15).
26. Local Government Provisional Order (Gas).
27. Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes).
28. Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law).
29. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1).
30. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2).

31. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).
32. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 4).
33. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Gas).
34. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (Housing of Working Classes).
35. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) (No. 2).
36. Paisley Gas Provisional Order Confirmation.
37. London (Poplar) Provisional Order.
38. Buckie Burgh Extension and Buckie (Craigenroan) Harbour Order Confirmation.
39. Irvine Corporation Order Confirmation.
40. Stonehaven Town Hall Order Confirmation.
41. Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1).
42. Rothesay Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation.
43. West Hampshire Water.
44. Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway.
45. Bedford Corporation Water.
46. South Metropolitan Gas.
47. Belfast Corporation.
48. Broadstairs Gas.
49. Rickmansworth Gas.
50. Great Northern Railway (No. 1).
51. Bradford Corporation.
52. Northumberland Electric Tramways.
53. Rusthall Manor.
54. City of London (Public Health).
55. Kent Water.
56. South Wales Electrical Power Distribution.
57. West Ham Gas.
58. Ticehurst Water.
59. Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Tramways.
60. Knaresborough Improvement.
61. North British Railway (Steam Vessels).
62. Halifax Corporation.
63. Buxton Urban District Council.
64. Great Northern Railway (No. 2).
65. Kent Electric Power.
66. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Steam Vessels).
67. Leamington Corporation.
68. Bristol Water.

69. Leicestershire and Warwickshire Electric Power.
70. Tyneside Tramways and Tram-roads.
71. Chard Gas.
72. Commercial Gas.
73. Great Central Railway.
74. West Gloucestershire Water.
75. Huddersfield Corporation.
76. Manchester Corporation (General Powers).
77. Imperial Institute.
78. North British Railway (General Powers).
79. Nottingham and Retford Railway.

NEW PEER.

Sir FRANCIS WALLACE GRENFELL, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., Lieutenant-General in the Army, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the forces, with the rank of General, in Malta, having been created Baron Grenfell of Kilvey, in the county of Glamorgan—was (in the usual manner) introduced.

SAT FIRST.

LORD TENTERDEN.

Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

EASTBOURNE CORPORATION BILL.
Reported with Amendments.

BRISTOL CORPORATION BILL [H.L.],
MEDWAY AND THAMES CANAL BILL [H.L.]

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

FINCHLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

FLEETWOOD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL.

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

BARRY RAILWAY BILL [H.L.],
ABERDEEN ACCOUNTANTS ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.]

GLASGOW CORPORATION (GAS, ETC.) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.],

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 5) BILL [H.L.],

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL,

GAS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 2) BILL [H.L.],

WATER ORDERS CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.]

Returned from the Commons, agreed to.

CENTRAL LONDON RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments: the said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

SOUTH-EASTERN AND LONDON, CHATHAM, AND DOVER RAILWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons, agreed to, with Amendments.

CALEDONIAN RAILWAY BILL,
OMAGH URBAN DISTRICT GAS BILL,
SALFORD CORPORATION BILL,
SOUTHPORT AND LYTHAM TRAM-ROAD BILL,

GREAT CENTRAL AND MIDLAND RAILWAYS (SOUTH YORKSHIRE RAILWAYS) BILL,

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL,
MIDLAND RAILWAY (STEAM VESSELS) BILL,

NORWICH CORPORATION (ELECTRICITY, ETC.) BILL,
CLEETHORPES IMPROVEMENT BILL,
EAST WORCESTERSHIRE WATER BILL,

NORTH METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL.

Moved, That the Order made on the 14th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Thursday the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a (*The Earl of Dudley*); agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

LAND DRAINAGE PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 10) BILL,

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 4) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order) and passed.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (BARNES, ETC.) BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered (according to order), and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

NEW FOREST (SALE OF LANDS FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES) BILL,

COMMONS REGULATION (SODBURY) PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.

House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Orders made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of—

I. A light railway in the counties of Kent and Surrey, from Orpington to Tatsfield.

II. Light railways in the rural district of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester.

III. A light railway in the West Riding of the county of York from Holmfild to Southowram.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MIDWIVES BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL.

SECOND READING.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): My Lords, the object of this Bill is to place the conditions under which money may be borrowed by municipalities in Scotland for electric lighting purposes upon a more convenient and logical basis. Up to the present time many burghs have been limited by the amount which they are allowed to borrow under their local and other Acts for lighting by gas. This, in practice, has been found to be extremely inconvenient, and, as time goes on, it will altogether unduly limit the powers of some of these thriving municipalities to light their towns by electricity. The way in which it is proposed to proceed in future is to give burghs power to borrow, subject to the consent of the Secretary for Scotland. That is a method which has been found convenient in other matters, and for which there is ample precedent. The passage of this Bill is ardently desired by municipalities in Scotland, some of which have had to obtain private orders and private bills to relieve them of the restrictions under which they are placed, and the Scottish Office think it would be better to place the matter once and for all upon a more logical and permanent basis. I do not anticipate any opposition to the proposal; on the contrary, I have had many representations which lead me to believe that the passage of the Bill is ardently desired, and I hope your Lordships will agree now to read the Bill a second time.

Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

ECCLESIASTICAL DILAPIDATIONS—TREFOR TRAIAN BENEFICE.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY, in rising "To call the attention of the House to the estimate of the Diocesan Surveyor of St. Asaph of £1,586 for the repairs of the buildings of three farms of sixty, forty, and twenty acres respectively, belonging to the benefice of Trefor Traian,

Denbighshire, now in course of sequestration, and to the action of other surveyors; and to move for Papers"—said: My Lords, I have felt it necessary to bring this case before the House, because it is one of great and undeserved hardship, and also because it shows the necessity of altering the plan upon which these surveyors are appointed, and how desirable it is that the glebe lands of farms should be sold as soon as possible. In the present state of agriculture, things are not as they were in former times. The Rev. H. F. Owen, the incumbent of Trefor Traian, is near seventy years of age, and has a wife and five children still dependent upon him. His only fault is that he is old, and has had as many as eleven children, one of whom is in the Denbigh Asylum; and that having had to bring them up upon £95 a year, and whatever he might get from tourists during the summer for showing Vale Crucis Abbey, which he rents from its lay owner, he has not been able to prevent three farms from becoming dilapidated. I have no doubt that the bishop thought he was too old, and that it would be a good thing to get rid of him. Still, he ought to have waited until, in the natural course of events, he died, instead of endeavouring to force him to resign. The three farms that are dilapidated are of sixty, forty, and twenty acres respectively, and give the incumbent a rent of £71. He also receives £24 per annum from the Bounty Office.

The bishop has sequestered the benefice, and offers the incumbent only £30 a year to live upon. If the incumbent will resign his cure, he offers him £70 a year, but that would be insufficient to live upon, especially as he has been deprived of some clerical charities amounting to about £50 a year; besides which, if he resigned his benefice, the creditors would take his pension. As far as I am aware, up to the present time, no attempt has been made to sell these farms, two of which adjoin the property of a large landowner, and the other that of another landowner. I know that in the case of the two farms no attempt has been made to approach the landowner, nor has the incumbent's suggestion been acted upon to let the farms as bye-takes or accommodation

land, irrespective of buildings, to adjoining farmers. I know that the incumbent is correct in saying that if they were let in that way they would bring in nearly as good a rent, because my agent recently visited a church farm of forty-seven acres, without any house or buildings other than some old cow-sheds, which is let for £45—a good rent for Anglesey, especially as some of the land is on the shale. If the Trefor Traian farms could be let in the same way, there would be no need to trouble about rebuilding. In any case, however, speaking from my own experience in Anglesey, I say that £1,586 far exceeds what would be necessary for new farm houses and new buildings for three farms of the size of these. I have built a new house and buildings for a farm of 80 acres for £370, and others for farms under 40 acres for £280, so that £930 should have been sufficient for these three farms. But why did not the bishop wait until this incumbent disappeared in the course of nature? Why this precipitate haste, thereby incurring the accusation of tyranny, and of driving an old clergyman and his family into the workhouse? I should have thought that the Right Rev. Prelate would have wished to give some explanation with regard to these matters, but in reply to my inquiry when it would be convenient to his Lordship that I should put the Question—which has been for some time on the Minutes—he sent me a postcard to say he did not intend coming to London at present. I presume, therefore, that if he thinks any explanation necessary he will make it through the Press. I do not, however, believe that the undue pressure put upon the incumbent of Trefor Traian to induce him to resign his benefice is entirely owing to the Right Rev. Prelate. The diocesan officials, registrars, and surveyors are said to exercise too much influence—some say pressure—over the North Wales bishops, and I believe there are some similar cases on this side of the Dee. No good can be expected from these officials so long as they are paid by fees instead of by fixed salaries. This point was fully brought out before the Joint Committee; but no notice of this matter or of the question of dilapidations has been taken in the

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

Bill brought in by Mr. Hanbury. The best test of the cost of repairs of dilapidations is what builders of good repute state in their tenders. A greater number of respectable builders, instead of architects, ought to be appointed as surveyors. If there were a sufficient number of surveyors, the bishops could control them by not again nominating for a survey a surveyor against whom a just complaint has been proved. Ten or eleven dioceses have only one surveyor. St. Alban's and Southwell have six; Lichfield and Lincoln, five; York, Ely, Exeter, and Ripon, four; Bath and Wells, Carlisle, Norwich, and Peterborough, three; London, Winchester, Hereford, Newcastle, Durham, Rochester, St. David's, Salisbury, Truro, Wakefield, Worcester and Bangor, two each.

I think that the right rev. prelate might have come here. I was told by a North Wales clergyman that he had recently made a voyage to Oporto. I must suppose that this was for the purpose of consulting Portuguese authorities on the treatment of clergy, and as to whether these lines of Camoen's do not apply even more to a bishop in his treatment of the clergy than to a commander in the field—

"More stanzas had the siren in the praise
Of the illustrious Albuquerque sung;
But she remembers one harsh act, which weighs
Him down, though through the world his fame
be rung.

A great commander (who to crop bright bays
On precipitious cliffs his fate hath hung)
Should to his men a comrade rather be
Than a judge made up of severitie."

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I do not know whether the noble Lord gave any notice of his intention to bring this matter before the House to the Bishop of St. Asaph, but he appears to be the only Member of your Lordships' House who would be at all likely to be able to give any information on the subject. Certainly I have no knowledge of the circumstances to which the noble Lord has referred, and I do not believe it is within the functions of any member of the Government to have such knowledge. I understand that the proper course in cases of this description would be in the first instance to address the Bishop and invoke his assistance in the matter. Under certain contingencies

the subject might then come before the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, in which case it might become the duty of some member of the Government to make himself acquainted with the facts of the case. At present, however, neither I nor any of my colleagues on this Bench can give the noble Lord any information on the matter. I see by the Paper that the noble Lord has given notice of his intention to move for Papers. I was not able very accurately to follow the observations of the noble Lord, but I rather gathered that his concluding remarks were in the nature of the recitation of a piece of poetry, and not a Motion for Papers. I do not know what the Papers are for which the noble Lord intended to move, but if he puts a Motion on the Paper we will see whether it would be possible to give them.

*LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY: I am much obliged to the noble Duke for the reply he has given. I may say that I have written several times to the Bishop, but without effect.

TEACHERS' CERTIFICATES.

*LORD REAY, in rising "To ask the Lord President of the Council—

1. When the Board of Education recognised the certificates issued by the City and Guilds of London Institute, mentioned in page 2 of their regulations, for the award of teachers' certificates in different branches of domestic economy, session 1902-1903, and whether any Papers on the subject will be communicated to Parliament.

2. Whether the attention of the Board of Education has been directed to the serious reduction, in the qualifications required, from the standard now demanded for the limited diploma under the existing regulations dated March, 1902.

3. Whether representations have been made by those engaged in the work of training teachers in domestic subjects, urging that the granting of the new certificates will unduly lower the standard desirable for this class of teachers, and whether the Lord President will further consider the expediency of lowering the standard hitherto required by the Board of Education,"

said: My Lords, the Code of Regulations for day schools imposes certain qualifications upon the teachers in regard to the subjects to which my Question alludes. The system of the Board of Education with regard to cookery is to grant, on examination, a full or a limited diploma; it also recognises certain training schools for cookery, and certain certificates for teaching cookery granted by recognised training schools. With regard to laundry work, the Board of Education does not itself undertake any examinations; it simply recognises training schools and the certificates granted by those recognised training schools. The list of institutions recognised by the Board of Education is given on page 44 of the Day School Code. That Day School Code is as recent as last Spring, and on that list of recognised institutions the City and Guilds of London Institute, to which I refer in my Question, does not appear. The regulations for the granting of cookery diplomas by the Board of Education are as recent as March of this year. It was natural to suppose that the regulations contained in documents issued by the Board of Education in March last, and issued in the Day School Code, would not be disturbed. Contrary to this expectation, however, certificates to be awarded by the City and Guilds of London Institute have been recognised. Those certificates are three in number—the evening school teacher's certificate, the elementary day school teacher's certificate, and the teacher's diploma in domestic economy. A document issued by the City and Guilds of London Institute gives the conditions under which these certificates are granted, and there is a material difference between the conditions imposed by the City and Guilds of London Institute and those imposed by the Board of Education. I wish briefly to allude to the difference which exists in the two cases.

As regards the elementary day school teacher's cookery certificate of the City and Guilds of London Institute, the hours of instruction required in day or evening classes registered by the institute amount to 200, or 400 at a recognised training school. The qualification required for a cookery certificate

under the Board of Education is 840 hours training in a training school recognised by the Board. The difference, therefore, is very considerable. There is the further condition in the case of the City and Guilds of London Institute that evidence must be produced of having taught, or assisted in the teaching of, the subject for a period of not less than one year to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Inspector or the Inspector of the local authority; or the candidate must have received, as certified by the Principal, adequate instruction and practice in class teaching in a recognised training school. That, of course, does not entail any examination, and does not account for the difference of 400 and 840 hours training.

With regard to laundry work, the City and Guilds of London Institute require for the elementary day school teacher's certificate 200 hours instruction in day or evening classes registered by the institute, or 400 hours instruction in a recognised training school, and there is the same proviso as in the case of cookery in regard to practice in teaching the subject. The difference here, again, is very material, as the Board of Education requires 512 hours training in a training school recognised by the Board.

With regard to the diploma in house management, which is an entirely new expression—I suppose it is what has hitherto been called housewifery—the City and Guilds of London Institute's condition is that a separate certificate will not be issued, but candidates for the teacher's diploma in domestic economy, Group A, will be required to satisfy the examiners as to their knowledge of the subject. Again, the condition imposed by the Board of Education is much more stringent, viz., 250 hours training in a training school recognised by the Board, out of which time forty hours must have been spent in teaching classes of children.

How does the matter stand with regard to the diploma for teaching all three subjects? The qualification of the City and Guilds of London Institute is fifty weeks of twenty hours a week—equal to 1,000 hours instruction—at a recognised training school for domestic economy, and to produce evidence of having

received, during training, adequate instruction and practice in class teaching, and to have passed the examination in hygiene, elementary stage, Section I, and to pass the examinations for the day school teacher's certificate in the subjects included under Group A or Group B; whereas the Board of Education requires 1,573 hours training in a training school recognised by the Board, and the recognised diplomas of cookery and laundry work.

I think I have shown that the result of the recognition given to the certificates of the City and Guilds of London Institute involves a reduction of the standard hitherto required—a standard which, I may say, was being gradually raised with very good results to those who were taught. I am anxious to know what has induced the Board of Education to make this change, and especially why the change has been made when what I may call the issue of the standing orders for the year—both in the Code and in the Regulations issued by the Board of Education—had led all those engaged in this department of educational work to think there would not be an invasion by another body into the circle of institutions recognised by the Board. I believe the Board of Education has received some complaints, which I think are very legitimate, from those whose teaching was organised with a view to satisfy more stringent requirements. I trust the noble Duke may find it possible to communicate some Papers with reference to the correspondence which has taken place between the Board of Education and the City and Guilds of London Institute on the subject.

I must add that I have not alluded as yet to the evening school teacher's certificate, mentioned on page 2 of the Regulations of the City and Guilds of London Institute. It is the most extraordinary part of the scheme. It appears to be the fact that it is proposed to issue this entirely new certificate. Hitherto, no separate "evening school teacher's certificate" was known. In these evening continuation schools we may pre-suppose a certain amount of previous knowledge acquired in the day schools by those frequenting them. The qualifications of the teachers should be higher, instead of which they are

lower. For this certificate all that is required is that a candidate should have passed in hygiene, elementary stage, Section 1, and produce evidence of having received, in the year preceding the examination, at least 100 hours instruction, including practical lessons, in a class registered by the institute. The alternative is to have regularly attended a course of instruction at a recognised training school. That means that a candidate could qualify for this certificate by spending 100 hours in a training school—that is to say, four or five weeks special instruction—besides passing in hygiene, elementary stage, Section 1. That seems to me to be not the least surprising result of this unexpected interference of the Board of Education with existing rules. I beg to ask the Question standing in my name.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): The City and Guilds of London Institute applied, in March last, for the recognition by the Board of Education of three classes of teachers' certificates proposed to be granted by the institute to teachers in certain branches of the subjects which are commonly known as "domestic economy." The certificates proposed for teachers in evening schools, and the teacher's diploma, so far as it related to teachers in secondary schools, presented no difficulty, and they were recognised by the Board of Education in April last; the recognition has been announced in the supplementary regulations for secondary day schools and for evening schools issued by the Board last month. The certificates for teachers in elementary day schools and "teacher's diploma" in the above named subjects taken in groups for teachers in those schools were the subject of some correspondence, and in the beginning of June the Board stated that they were able to "give a general approval to the regulations and examinations for certificates in the various branches of domestic economy proposed to be issued by the City and Guilds of London Institute," and that they were "prepared to recognise those certificates for the purpose of Article 101 (*g*), (*h*) and (*m*) of the Code." This recognition was announced in the regulations recently issued by the institute. At the same time the Board pointed out that it might be necessary to have further discussion as

to the details of the conditions of training and examination. With this object, a discussion took place about three weeks ago between Sir Philip Magnus and some of the officers of the Board, including the Inspector of Cookery, at which a fear was expressed—which I think has been repeated by the noble Lord—that as the minimum number of hours training required by the institute was much lower than that required by the regulations of the Board, there would be a falling off in the standard of qualifications required in teachers of these subjects. To meet these objections, the institute drew up the instructions of 11th July, and in forwarding them to the Board of Education, Sir Philip Magnus said—

“You will see from these instructions that it is by no means the intention of the institute to grant certificates on easier terms than those on which they have been hitherto obtainable from the Board. On the contrary, I think the examinations will be found more difficult. At the same time it has been the object of the institute to relax somewhat the regulations with respect to the distribution of the hours of instruction, and you will also note that the institute is desirous of throwing upon the Principal and the teachers more responsibility, and of relying upon their interest in their students’ work to make the instruction as thorough as possible. Certainly in the future schools will not continue to be recognised unless the Principal can be trusted to organise the teaching on satisfactory lines.

“Some misapprehension appears to have existed with regard to what is meant by the minimum number of hours to be devoted to instruction in any subject. You will see from the enclosed that it is certainly not intended that the institute’s minimum should be taken as the school’s maximum. The instructions will, I hope, show the importance which the institute attaches to the practising lessons to be given in the training school, and you will note that in no case can any candidate obtain a day teacher’s certificate who does not produce adequate and satisfactory evidence of ability to teach.”

These statements appear to the Board to be satisfactory, as showing that the institute does not aim at any lowering of the standard; but before next year’s regulations are issued by the institute, and before any notifications of recognition of the certificates, so far as they relate to teachers in public elementary schools, is inserted in next year’s Code, very careful consideration will be given to the question of the practical effect of these certificates, and of how far they have tended, or may tend, to alter the standard which the Board

The Duke of Devonshire.

consider necessary for teachers in these subjects. Representations have been received, and will doubtless continue to be received, from institutions carried on under the Board’s regulations, and fears have been expressed which the Board at present consider to be groundless. I need not go into specific points, but I should like to observe that it does not appear to have been generally noticed that the instructions of July 11th lay down that the only schools recognised by the institute as affording the training necessary for these certificates should be those at present recognised by the Board of Education. I have, moreover, the authority of Sir Philip Magnus for saying that the institute are ready at any time to alter or amend any details in accordance with the wishes of the Board, and I can assure the noble Lord that the Board of Education will watch very carefully the practical working of the institute’s scheme, and its effect on the teaching of these important subjects.

At present the Board believe that, while substantially preserving the standard, the institute’s certificate system is based on principles of elasticity and freedom which will re-act beneficially on the qualifications of these teachers.

I hope the statement which I have obtained from the principal secretary for the secondary branch of education will substantially answer the Question of the noble Lord.

I do not think that there would be any advantage in laying the correspondence on the subject upon the Table, as a great part of the negotiations, if I may call them so, have been carried on by means of interviews, without a knowledge of which the letters would not afford much information.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o’clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o’clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 22nd July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

ROYAL ASSENT.

COMMISSION.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went, and being returned—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (see page 877).

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

BRYNMAWR AND WESTERN VALLEYS
RAILWAY (VESTING) BILL,

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAIL-
WAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

FLEETWOOD URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL BILL.

As amended, considered.

Ordered, That in the case of Fleetwood
Urban District Council Bill, as amended,
Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended,
and that the Bill be now read the third
time.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

(King's Consent signified) ; Bill accord-
ingly read the third time, and passed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 7) BILL [LORDS],

ELECTRIC LIGHTING PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 8) BILL [LORDS],

GAS AND WATER ORDERS CONFIRMA-
TION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].

Read a second time and committed.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMP-
STEAD RAILWAY (No. 1 AND No. 3)
BILL [LORDS], AND CHARING CROSS,
EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAIL-
WAY (No. 2) BILL [LORDS].

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the
Committee on the Charing Cross, Euston,
and Hampstead Railway (No. 1 and No. 3)
Bill [LORDS], and Charing Cross, Euston, and
Hampstead Railway (No. 2) Bill [LORDS],
that they have power if they think fit, to
consolidate the said two Bills into one
Bill.—(*Mr. Bartley.*)

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Local Government Provisional Orders
(No. 6) Bill,

West Ham Corporation Bill,

Newport Corporation Bill,

North-Eastern Railway Bill,

London and North-Western Railway
Bill,

North Metropolitan Tramways Bill,

Croydon and District Electric Tram-
ways Bill,

Metropolitan Railway Bill,

London County Council (General
Powers) Bill, with Amendments.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)
BILL.

Petitions against: From Gloucester;
Northwich; Golcar; Bradford; London;
Manchester (two); Longsight; Gorton;
and Leeds; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)
BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Devon-
port; Bangor; Middleton St. George;
Carlton le Moorland; Bridgwater; and
Exeter; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Return for the
quarter ended 30th June, 1902 [by
Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION
(PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceed-
ings during the month of March, 1902
[by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRAINING COLLEGES (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto
[ordered 25th June; *Mr. Boland*]; to lie
upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy presented, of telegrams concern-
ing the siege of Ladysmith [by Com-
mand]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by
the Light Railway Commissioners, and
modified and confirmed by the Board of
Trade, authorising the construction of a
light railway in the West Riding of the
county of York from Holmfild to

Southowram (Holmfild and Southowram Light Railway Order, 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a light railway in the counties of Kent and Surrey from Orpington to Tatsfield (Orpington, Cudham, and Tatsfield Light Railway Order, 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the rural district of Halesowen, in the county of Worcester (Halesowen Light Railways (Extensions) Order, 1902) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

India—Chiefship of Kythal, Punjab.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the Phulkean Bhaikean family are alleged to have been wrongfully deprived of the chiefship and principality of Kythal of the Cis Sutlej territory of the Punjab in the years 1843 and 1847; and will he explain on what ground the Government of India decline to restore to Sirdar Bhai Shamshere Singh, the present representative of the Kythal chiefs, the territory claimed by him.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) I am aware of the allegation stated in the Question put by the hon. Member. In the Return, East India (Kythal), ordered by the House to be printed on the 24th of April, 1896, the facts are fully set forth, and I have nothing to add to my predecessor's decision, printed as No. 13 in that Blue-book.

Tents for District Officers on Tour in India.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government

of India have yet considered the expediency of superseding the large tents used by district officers on tour in India by the more economical and handier Swiss Cottage and Cashmere tents.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) I have no information on the subject of the hon. Member's Question.

Naval Lieutenants on Coastguard Service—Pay, Visiting Allowance, Income Tax.

MR. ARCHDALE (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if his attention has been called to the fact that, by the new scale of pay, lieutenants employed in coastguard service are placed at a disadvantage with lieutenants of equal rank in other employment, owing to income tax being now charged on all their pay, whereas formerly visiting allowance was not subject to income tax; and will he take steps to relieve these officers of this charge.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) The hon. Member is evidently under a misapprehension. The visiting allowance of lieutenants appointed to the coastguard on or before the 1st of April, 1902, is not affected by the changes in the pay of senior lieutenants in the Royal Navy, and therefore these officers are in exactly the same position as formerly as regards exemption from income tax. Lieutenants appointed to the coastguard since that date will draw a reduced visiting allowance not subject to income tax, but it is not considered that they are thus placed at a disadvantage with lieutenants otherwise employed, the whole of whose pay is liable to income tax.

South Africa—Censorship.

MR. H. C. RICHARDS (Finsbury, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state on what grounds a private telegram, sent by Mr. Alfred Willis to his son at Brockburg, Transvaal, was refused at the General Post Office on 17th July on the ground of censorship; and how long this censorship is to continue.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) When the telegram in question, which was addressed to Boksburg (not Brockburg) was handed in, the restrictions

on telegrams for the Transvaal prohibited the acceptance of any addressed to Boksburg. These restrictions have now been removed, and the telegram has accordingly been sent to its destination.

Local Loans—Rates of Interest.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state what is the lowest rate of interest which has been charged to any harbour authority or local body in Great Britain on any loan advanced from the Treasury of the Exchequer.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) The hon. and gallant Member's Question is presumably intended to refer to loans advanced out of the Local Loans Fund by the Public Works Loans Commissioners. The interest on loans advanced to local bodies on the security of the rates is fixed from time to time by Treasury Minute with reference to the terms on which the Government can borrow, and the currency of the loan. The lowest rate which has been fixed for loans to local authorities, and this rate applied to harbour loans where the security of local rates was forthcoming, was $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., fixed by Treasury Minute after the passing of the Public Works Loans Act, 1897. But that minimum rate has since been raised to $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., which is now the lowest rate for such loans. Where the loans are not guaranteed by the local authorities the rates are higher.

China—Likin Duties.

MR. WYLIE (Dumbartonshire): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state what proposal has been received from Sir James Mackay regarding the Likin system which are to be submitted in this country and in China.

(Answered by Viscount Cranborne.) The scheme which has been received from Sir James Mackay deals very fully with the difficulties of the Likin system; but as the proposal is still under consideration my hon. friend will no doubt forgive me if I make no statement in regard to it at the present moment.

Education Election Orders.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, S.): To ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education, with reference to the suggestion addressed to School Boards that, in the event of their term of office expiring before the 26th March, 1903, an election may be avoided by omitting the nomination of candidates, so that the existing School Boards would remain in office, whether in such case School Boards will be required to pay full fees to the returning officers for an unopposed election.

(Answered by Sir John Gorst.) As the Board of Education must issue the election order, the returning officer will be entitled to his fees on unopposed election scale.

Precautions Against Liver Fluke.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, in view of the present climatic conditions, the Board will issue leaflets in English and Welsh explaining the causes which produce liver fluke, and the precautions to be taken against that disease.

(Answered by Mr. Hanbury.) If I find that the information available as to the causes of liver fluke and as to the precautions to be taken against it is sufficient to justify the issue of a leaflet, one shall be prepared and issued without delay.

Galway Irish Interpreter.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that, owing to Galway city being merged in the county by the Local Government Act, the interpreter of Irish has lost the emoluments he received from the town grand jury, and is obliged to do for nothing work for which £25 a year was previously paid; and will he consult the Recorder of Galway on the matter, with a view to this extra remuneration, if found equitable, being paid.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) The present interpreter was not an "existing" officer within the meaning of Section 109 of the Local Government Act of

1898, inasmuch as he was not appointed until March, 1901. Moreover, the amalgamation of the city with the county of Galway took place in January, 1900. There are no grounds, therefore, for considering that he has any claims for compensation as suggested.

Imperial Yeomanry—Case of Robert Edmondson.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been drawn to the case of Mr. Robert Edmondson, formerly sergeant-major 35th Company Imperial Yeomanry, 11th Battalion, who was detained under arrest from 1st July, 1900, to 5th February, 1901, in South Africa, without any crime being placed against him and without his being tried for any offence, as required by the King's Regulations; and whether any steps are in contemplation against the officers responsible for the man's detention.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) My attention has been drawn to the case of Edmondson. As the case will probably be the subject of legal proceedings, I am not in a position to make any statement with regard to it.

Return of Troops—Second Essex Regiment.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that the Second Essex Regiment which is now in South Africa has been on foreign service for twenty years, he will arrange that the regiment is brought home at the earliest opportunity.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The roster of units for home is at present being considered, and the long foreign service of this unit will not be lost sight of.

Remounts—Purchases in Hungary, Australia and America.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War, having regard to the fact that the Commissioners to investigate locally the proceedings of the remount purchasing commissions in Hungary, Australia, and America were

appointed owing to doubts as to the conduct of the officers composing those purchasing commissions, and that direct accusations have been made against those officers, will he, as the reports received from the investigating Commissioners are not to be published at present, take further action in the matter at the earliest opportunity; and, if so, state what such action will be.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) I am afraid that I have no further information at present to add to that which I have already given the hon. Member on this subject.

South Africa—Medals, etc., for Nurses.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanark, N. W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War what medals or rewards have been given to nurses for service in South Africa; whether these have been conferred upon trained nurses who served as volunteers, as well as upon Army nurses; and, if not, upon what grounds a distinction has been made.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) May I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on the 20th February last to a Question put on this subject by the hon. Member for North Cumberland.†

Netherlands Railway—Arrears of Interest.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government will pay the arrears of interest due on the Netherlands Railway, having regard to the fact that both principal and interest were guaranteed by the late Transvaal Republic, and duly paid up to 1st October 1900, and that His Majesty's Government took over the said railway.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) His Majesty's Government are not prepared to make any statement at present.

Post Office Buildings—Inspection under Factory Acts.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether the Post Office has arranged to permit the inspection of

† See (4) *Debates* ciii., 581.

post office buildings by Factory Act officials when such inspection is considered necessary; whether the Postmaster General will direct that upon the staff making complaints in writing with reference to the sanitary condition of the buildings in which they work, an inspection will take place, and the result be communicated to the men concerned.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) The Postmaster General has made an arrangement with the Home Office under which he is able, if he considers it necessary, to avail himself of the services of a factory inspector, in dealing with any question whether a post office building fulfils the conditions of the Factory Acts, and he has already done so. Every complaint made by the staff as to the sanitary condition of a post office building is thoroughly investigated, but the Postmaster General cannot undertake to call in a factory inspector every time a complaint is made.

South Africa—Repatriation of Boer Prisoners.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Burghs): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to lay upon the Table the Estimate for the repatriation of the Boer prisoners, and when he proposes taking the discussion upon it.

(Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.) No separate Estimate will be laid. Transports provided for out of Army funds will be utilised for the purpose both of repatriating prisoners and bringing back troops.

Johannesburg Mines—Native Labour—Arrest of Five Natives.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what were the circumstances which led to the arrest of the native chiefs at Johannesburg at the beginning of this month; how many chiefs were arrested, what was the charge preferred against them, and by whom; whether the chiefs have been brought to trial, and with what result; whether an attempt was made to release them; and, if so, by whom was such attempt made; what then took place, and did any bloodshed or loss of life ensue; and whether instructions have been given to the

authorities in the Transvaal that no aid is to be given, directly or indirectly, to procuring forced labour for the mines or any other form of industry.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) I am informed that a number of natives employed by Gendennuis Estate Mine were brought up under Master and Servant Act. The five ringleaders, who had been instigating others not to work, were sentenced to one month imprisonment with hard labour. There was some excitement among the natives, but Lord Milner states that there was no loss of life, no bloodshed, and no resistance either before or after the arrest. The policy of His Majesty's Government, which is against forced labour, is made clear in the Parliamentary Paper Cd. 904; and I have no reason to suppose that anything in the nature of forced labour prevails at Johannesburg.

(2.15.) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South African Settlement.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he expects to make a further statement as to the progress of the settlement in South Africa, and when it is intended that full information should be made available for the public by the removal of the censorship.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I apprehend that this matter will best be discussed on the Colonial Office Vote, and I suppose it will be convenient for the Committee and for my right hon. friend that that Vote should be taken some day next week.

Remounts—The Studdert Case.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether any decision has yet been taken as to a prosecution in the Irish Remounts case.

The following Question also appeared on the Paper—

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Secretary of State

for War if he will state whether Colonel St. Quentin is the Member of the Imperial Yeomanry Committee, whose duty it was to inspect the remounts for the South African War, who made the arrangement with Major Studdert for the purchase by him of horses in Ireland for the South African War; and will he say why Colonel St. Quentin was not called as a witness at the trial in Dublin of the Secretary of State for War v. Studdert and others.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): This question is being considered by the Law Officers of the Crown. Pending the receipt of their advice, I cannot answer the Questions addressed to me by the hon. Member for South Donegal.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he was aware of the terms under which the action of the Secretary of State for War v. Studdert, for fraudulent breach of contract as agent and trustee, was compromised by the Solicitor General for Ireland, as counsel for the War Office, and did he personally assent thereto; and if so, will he state the grounds on which his assent was based.

MR. BRODRICK: The Solicitor-General had full power to take what course he thought proper in this case. He took the course he did, and has not in any way bound the Government as to further proceedings.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my Question. Did he personally assent to this compromise?

MR. BRODRICK: I am not prepared to go further into the matter. Full power was given to the Solicitor General to act on behalf of the War Office.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will the right hon. Gentleman now kindly make the statement which he promised on Thursday last that he would make in reference to this transaction?

MR. BRODRICK: I have given the hon. Member all the information it is in my power to give.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: That is not the "full statement" you promised.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Why does not the right hon. Gentleman keep his promise?

National Scouts—Enlistment in the S.A. Constabulary.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government in South Africa are employing, or intend to employ, the Boers who joined the National Scouts for police or other duties in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): Lord Milner reports that a very large number of burghers have applied for enlistment in the South African Constabulary, and that he has taken on between two and three hundred of them, very carefully selected. About half of these are National Scouts who have borne a good character in that force. The rest are men who have recently surrendered, and who are vouched for by the Boer generals.

Terms of Peace—Vereeniging Resolutions.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table copies of the Vereeniging Resolution of the Boer delegates stating the grounds on which they accepted the terms of peace; Lord Kitchener's speech to the delegates at Vereeniging; the letter of Louis Botha and Schalk Burger to the burghers; Lord Kitchener's message of thanks to the Boer Commanders and the King's message; and other papers throwing light on the circumstances accompanying and following the signing of the terms of peace in South Africa.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): My right hon. friend is about to lay printed Papers, and he will consider whether he can properly publish the documents referred to in the Question.

Lord Milner and the Johannesburg Mines.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table

a full Report of the statement made by Lord Milner to a deputation from the Chamber of Mines of Johannesburg, which statement was referred to in a discussion in the Chamber on 19th June.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): No such Report has yet reached my right hon. friend; when it does, the question of laying it on the Table of the House will be considered.

Soldiers' War Gratuities.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that a number of reservists and other soldiers will be soon arriving home who are entitled to gratuities and other payments, in order to prevent this money being squandered if paid at once, he will consider the advisability of arranging for payment to be made through the post office in the locality where the man decides to take up his abode.

MR. BRODRICK: The hon. Member is evidently unaware that his suggested arrangement is the present rule of the service.

Age Regulations for Volunteers.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Colour Sergeant James Roy, of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Scottish Rifles, who has been certified as having thirty years efficient service, and has been present at every company and battalion drill during that period (excepting only one battalion and one company drill), and has been present in every camp of instruction attended by the regiment during the past thirty years, was, under an order issued in the 26th and 71st Regimental District, N.B., refused the privilege of having an application considered for an extension of service in terms of Article 154 of the Volunteer Regulations; whether he is aware that although Colour Sergeant Roy had not made any application for his discharge, he received a discharge bearing to be granted at his own request and to be issued in accordance with the provisions

of the seventh section of The Volunteer Act, 1863; and, whether he will take steps that Colour Sergeant Roy may have the question of his further continuance of service considered in terms of Article 154 of the Regulations for the Volunteer Force.

MR. BRODRICK: The retention of Volunteers after fifty years of age rests entirely with the Commanding Officer of the Corps and the Officer Commanding the Regimental District, with whose discretion in the matter I am not prepared in any way to interfere.

MR. CALDWELL: But, notwithstanding the regulation, consideration of the request has been refused by the Commanding Officer.

Chatham Naval Storehousemen.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, seeing that a petition from the storehousemen of the Naval Store Office at Chatham has been under consideration for the past three years, will he state when a reply to the petition may be expected.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PREYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The petition referred to raised questions of status and pay affecting the storehouse staff at all the naval establishments, and it was therefore impossible to deal with the case of Chatham, except as part of a large question of re-organisation. The matter is receiving careful consideration, but the Admiralty are not yet in a position to announce any changes in the existing classification and pay of the storehouse staff.

CAPTAIN NORTON: Is the "consideration" likely to take three years more?

[No answer was returned.]

Gibraltar—Anglo-Spanish Relations.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the attention of His Majesty's Government has been drawn to the statements in the Liberal and the *Correspondencia Militar* relative to proposals for erecting fortifications on the Spanish territory encircling Gibraltar, and to the relations of

Spain with England, in connection with General Weyler's forthcoming inspection of Mediterranean coasts; can he state whether there are any, and if so what, outstanding questions with Spain as to the Mediterranean, and especially whether His Majesty's Government are prepared to entertain or initiate proposals to come to any such friendly understanding with reference to Gibraltar as would provide, on the one hand, against the erection of fortresses over against Gibraltar by Spain, and, on the other hand, against contingencies involving the defence of Gibraltar by British military operations on the adjacent Spanish territories.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): His Majesty's Government are aware of the newspaper articles referred to. There are no outstanding questions with Spain as to the Mediterranean. I venture to think that it is not for the public interest that such subjects as those to which the concluding part of the hon. Member's question refers should be discussed by means of questions and answers in the House of Commons.

Pembrokeshire Hunt Hounds.

MR. THOMAS BAYLEY (Derbyshire, Chesterfield): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the Agricultural Department received information at the beginning of this year that rabies broke out among the hounds of the Pembrokeshire Hunt; and will he explain why, under the muzzling order issued for South Wales in consequence of this outbreak, the owners of the hounds of the Pembrokeshire Hunt and other sporting dogs in South Wales were not treated in the same way as the owners of other dogs.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. HANBURY, Preston): The answer to the first paragraph is yes. The hounds of the Pembrokeshire Hunt, so far from being treated with exceptional leniency, have all been confined to the kennels by special notice, since the beginning of February.

Argentine Beef Trade.

MR. BULL (Hammersmith): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, having regard to the present high price of beef, and to the fact that the Argentine Republic is stated to be free from foot and mouth disease, if he can state when the trade in beef will be allowed to be resumed from that country.

MR. HANBURY: The withdrawal of restrictions against the importation of Argentine cattle must depend upon the Argentine Government adopting regulations, which in my opinion would be likely to safeguard their country against the introduction of disease, and afford security for a steady trade between this country and the Argentine. I am at present in communication with the Argentine Government on this subject.

Scottish Deer Forests Return—Applecross Forest.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, seeing that the last Deer Forest Return issued by the Crown Agent for Scotland was prepared on information obtained from the assessors, will he state whether the assessor for Ross and Cromarty ever visited the Forest of Applecross, and, if so, when; and, in view of the fact that this forest is stated in the Return to contain no more than 37,000 acres, will the assessors be recommended to test the accuracy of any information they may receive in regard to the area of deer forests, by personal inquiry on the spot.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): Perhaps the hon. Member will allow me to answer this Question. I am not aware whether the assessor for Ross and Cromarty visited the forest of Applecross or not; but as the question of area is no criterion as to value in the case of a deer forest, I see no reason for any recommendation on the subject.

In reply to a further Question by Mr. WEIR, Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY said the value of a deer forest was based on the number of stags killed.

MR. WEIR: And what is the value put on each stag?

Port of Ness Harbour.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that, in order that the harbour of Port of Ness, Island of Lewis, which was constructed out of a Government grant, should be rendered of service at the earliest possible date, 150 of the fishermen have recently expressed their willingness to give six days free labour each to assist in the removal of the accumulated sand; and, in view of this offer, will the Congested Districts Board endeavour to arrive at an early decision in regard to the application which was made to them some time since relative to the removal of the sand during the summer months.

MR. A. GRAHAM MURRAY: I am informed that an offer has been made on behalf of 140 fishermen to each give six days free labour, to begin on 1st October next. The Board will arrive at as early a decision as possible in the difficult and complicated situation of this case.

Female Training Colleges in Dublin.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the average annual cost per pupil in the female training colleges in Kildare Street and in Baggot Street, Dublin, respectively; and, seeing that it would be impossible, without serious loss, for these colleges to pay interest and sinking fund on their loans, will he state on what grounds it is proposed for the training colleges at Limerick, Belfast, and Waterford to defray this charge.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I am not yet in a position to give the information desired in the first part of the Question. When received, I will communicate it to the hon. Member. In respect to the second part of the Question, I have nothing to add to my reply to the similar inquiry of the 24th June.†

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) was understood to ask whether institutions of enormous importance such as these were to be ruined by the refusal of a paltry sum of £3,000.

† See (4) *Debates*, cix., 1518.

MR. WYNDHAM: I must ask for notice of that Question. It is a matter of arrangement with the Treasury.

Police Pensioners as Prison Warders.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down Co., S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how many police pensioners are employed as warders in Irish prisons; whether, before qualifying for pensions, they were declared unfit for further service in the police; whether it is intended to make any further appointments from the same class; and whether the Prisons Board intend to adopt a system of examinations for promotions in the prison service.

MR. WYNDHAM: Three pensioners, declared to have been unfit for further service in the police force, are employed as warders in the Prisons Service. Before they were taken into the latter service they satisfied the Civil Service Commissioners and the Prisons Board of their fitness for the position of warder. Further similar appointments will be made as opportunities occur. All permanent warders undergo examination before appointment. The present system, whereby the best men are promoted by selection, works thoroughly well, and it is not proposed to alter it.

MR. MACVEAGH: Will the right hon. Gentleman kindly say how it is that policemen who are declared unfit for further service are declared fit for service as prison warders?

Naas Registry Office.

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the registry of births, deaths, and marriages in the workhouse of the Naas Poor Law Union consists of two rooms, an inner and an outer room, the inner room being a strong closet in which filled-up registers are deposited, the outer room only being used by the master and other officials of the union for the transaction of official business; and whether, seeing that the registration inspector has reported that the use of this outer room by the master and

other officials causes no inconvenience, and that its use by them will be discontinued should the room be required for registration purposes, in order to avoid the unnecessary expense of building new offices for the master, &c., the Registrar General will reconsider his decision and allow the room to be used as hitherto under the control of the Guardians.

MR. WYNDHAM: I replied very fully to a Question put by the hon. Member on this subject on the 30th June.† To that reply I have nothing to add, except to say that the Inspector has not reported to the effect alleged.

Royal Hibernian Academy.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, having regard to the fact that the question of what can be done to improve the position of the Royal Hibernian Academy is now engaging the attention of the Government, whether the Government is in communication with the corporate body of the Royal Hibernian Academy, and is in full possession of its stated claims to be placed on a footing similar to that conceded to the Royal Scottish Academy in the interests of living and contemporary art culture in Scotland.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reply to this Question is in the affirmative.

Scottish Deer Forests—Inaccurate Returns.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will consider the expediency of introducing legislation such as will impose penalties on owners of deer forests who fail to furnish the assessors with accurate information in regard to the area of forests, or on other points on which information is required for valuation purposes.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The deer forests are not valued in respect of their acreage. The Valuation Acts already provide under the 'exaction of penalties for the furnishing of such information as is necessary for the purposes of valuation. There is not, as I am advised, any necessity for legislation on the subject.

† See preceding volume, p. 303.

Imperial Defence.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): On behalf of the noble Lord the Member for Woolwich, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the attention of the Government has been given to the need for some reinforcement of intellectual equipment for directing the forces of the Empire, and for better preparation in advance with regard to the defence of the Empire; and will he state what steps will be taken to remedy the alleged deficiencies in these respects.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should be delighted in any way to increase intellectual equipment in connection with this or any other subject.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The right hon. Gentleman has not said what steps he will take in that direction.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The field is already open to such talent as may be available.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now give the House a clear and more definite idea of the business for each day until August 8th. I may take the opportunity of recalling to the right hon. Gentleman's recollection the fact that there is a vote for excesses in the Army Estimates of the previous year which was put off in order that it might be considered by the Public Accounts Committee. That has now been done, and I wish to know when the opportunity for the discussion of this Vote which the right hon. Gentleman has promised will be given.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The right hon. Gentleman is probably aware that on March 3rd the Vote was withdrawn on my representation. I would like to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman will afford an opportunity for its consideration, as it has not yet been discussed.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): May I at the same time ask what the Government proposes to do with regard to the money for the repatriation of the Boer prisoners, and whether a day will be given for the consideration of the matter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot answer the last Question. There are fourteen days still remaining, including today, before the House will adjourn for the recess. There will be eleven afternoon sittings, eleven evening sittings, and three Fridays. Five days must be devoted to finishing the Estimates, and I shall have to find an evening sitting for dealing with the Supplementary Estimate referred to by the right hon. Gentleman. Next Friday has been given for the discussion of the financial relations between Ireland and England; there will have to be opportunities for discussing the Appropriation Bill and the Motion for the holidays. In spite of all these obligations, it ought to be possible to find an afternoon and an evening sitting for the London Water Bill, and three whole days more, including today, for the Education Bill, which I hope, will be ample to finish the Clause on which we are now engaged. I also hope to find opportunities of advancing the two Irish Bills of which mention has been made, and also the Food and Drugs Bill, which I believe to be non-controversial. For these purposes it will be necessary to suspend the twelve o'clock rule at the end of the month, but it may be some consolation to hon. Members to know that this will be done at a later period than has been customary for many years past.

South Africa-Courts Martial Commission.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask leave to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a matter of urgent public importance — namely, the impending departure from England, four days before the long vacation, of the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Bigham, which, in the opinion of many, amounts to a gross dereliction of duty and a grave public scandal.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must surely be aware that that is a matter which cannot be discussed on a Motion for the adjournment of the House. It has frequently been ruled that a Motion affecting the conduct or character of His Majesty's Judges cannot be discussed on a Motion for adjournment.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Joseph Devlin, esquire, for the County of Kilkenny (North Kilkenny Division).

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Ordered, That three additional days be allotted to the Business of Supply.—
(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*).

NEW BILL.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

"To amend the Law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man,"—presented by Mr. Austen Chamberlain, under Standing Order No. 31; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 283.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'or for the use of which any rent is paid by them.'"—(*Mr. Whitley*.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(2.50.) MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said that in view of the satisfactory statement made by the First Lord of the Treasury on the previous night that any school for which rent was charged would *ipso facto* become a provided school, and that he would introduce words to make that perfectly clear, he was willing to ask leave to withdraw the Amendment; but before doing so he wished to ask whether on consideration the First Lord had not come to the conclusion that the insertion of the words he had proposed was not the most suitable way of carrying out the undertaking.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said these words could not possibly be inserted, because their insertion here would throw doubt on the construction of the expression "provided" as applied to schools without any qualification in a previous Clause. The twenty-third section of the Act of 1870 made provision for the transfer of schools to a School Board either absolutely or for payment of rent. Where rent was paid it was clear from that section that to the extent to which the use of the school was required by the local authority it was intended to be a school "provided" by the Education Department. That Act was now to be read in conjunction with the Bill under consideration. If the rent charged was a *bonâ fide* rent, it was beyond all controversy that the school would be in every sense of the term a school provided. There might, however, be cases where a merely nominal rent might be charged by some one practically providing the school. It deserved to be considered whether a definition was not required to determine whether a school provided on these terms was to be deemed a school provided by the local authority. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would be satisfied with the statement he had made.

MR. WHITLEY said it was difficult for a non-legal mind to follow the whole of what had been said, but so far as he could gather, the statement of the Attorney-General was not altogether in accordance with the First Lord of the Treasury's statement on the previous evening, which clearly was that the charging of the rent would *ipso facto* make a school a "provided" school. The question of a nominal rent had now been introduced; but who was to decide what amount of rent was nominal? Suppose a rent of £40 was charged on a building which cost £2,000. That was not a commercial rent, but yet it was substantial, and he held that the owners of the school should not be allowed to retain all the privileges of private managers. He did not think any solution of the difficulty could be more satisfactory than the one they understood the First Lord to agree to on the previous night, and before withdrawing his Amendment he would like to hear other opinions.

MR. JAMES HOPE (Sheffield, Bright side) thought the Amendment inadmissible, because it would practically prohibit the managers of a day school from letting to the local education authority for evening classes. He could not believe that that was the intention of hon. Members opposite.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said it had been stated over and over again that the majority of the school managers and the appointment of teachers could not be given in the case of schools not provided by denominations but only rented to the public. The First Lord of the Treasury had made a clear and definite statement that a school for which rent was paid was *ipso facto* a provided school, and he thought they were justified in keeping the right hon. Gentleman to that statement.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that although the matter was complicated there was no real difficulty in it, and there should be no obscurity about this. Hon. Gentlemen appeared to think that the observations of the Attorney-General were intended to limit his statement. But that was not the case: they rather extended it. If a school was transferred to the local authority under the Act of 1870, then the Bill would not interfere at all. With regard to cases not under the Act of 1870, suppose a schoolhouse were practically let to the local authority for a business rent, evidently that became a provided school. But his hon. and learned friend suggested whether, if only a nominal rent were charged, the question might not be raised whether the school should be deemed to be "provided" or not. They thought it ought to be. If an owner chose to let it to the local authority, in so far as it was let it was subject to all the provisions of this Bill, which transferred educational powers to the local authority. If the school was completely transferred for a peppercorn rent during the whole of the twenty-four hours, that school would be subject to, provided by, and financed by the local authority, and the Cowper-Temple Clause would operate through the whole period. Whether the rent be large or small, excessive or nominal, so

long as the local authority paid that rent the school would be provided by the local authority and subject to the incidents of that position.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said an out-and-out transfer was perfectly clear, but take the case of denominational managers who, without any formal arrangement, lease, or document, put down in their accounts £30 as rent. Was that a school provided by the local authority? As an illustration he might mention the case of Preston, where there was a denominational building out of which it was suggested the managers made a profit.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston): I do not think that such a statement should be made on hearsay. Is the hon. Member going to bring forward evidence in support of it? I deny that it is the case.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said there would be no difficulty about proving it in the course of the debate, as one of his hon. friends had got all the facts. There was in Preston a denomination controlling a school for which they got £300 or £400 from the Treasury. They had practically no voluntary subscription, and they charged a certain amount for rent for the use of the building during the time occupied with secular instruction, other portions of the week being used for other purposes. Would that be a school provided by the local authority? Supposing they were dealing with a denomination or church, would the right hon. Gentleman allow an arrangement between the denomination and managers whereby rent was paid? The managers were not identical with the denomination; they were two separate bodies in law. Would the denomination be allowed to charge any amount for rent in their accounts without the school becoming "provided" by the local authority?

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) would like to put the question in a different form. Trustees gathered funds from the congregation of a chapel and built a school and let the building to members of the congregation, who became

managers; and it was the practice of the managers of the school to pay to these trustees a sum for rent. At the present time this sum was paid either out of voluntary contributions or out of Government grants received by the managers. The question arose for the future, if that rent continued, would the school become "provided by the local authority"? Again, there might be a public company who, having erected a school, played the part of the trustees in the other case and received a rent from the managers. What would be the position there? Yet another case was that of a private individual who built a school hired by managers at a nominal rent, and sometimes rent was received for half of the building. All these points went to show that the subject required careful consideration. He thought the suggestion of the Attorney General that the matter should be postponed was a very wise one.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said these points, whatever their importance, did not arise on the Amendment, in which the point was whether rent paid by a local authority made a school a school provided by the local authority. This was important, because provided schools were under different rules to those for voluntary schools. The question raised by his hon. friend had nothing to do with rent paid by a local authority.

MR. ERNEST GRAY: In future rent now paid from contributions will be paid from the rates.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said if the payment came from the local authority the general rule would apply. There might be, and he was afraid there were, hard cases, but he did not know how they could deal with those. He thought the Committee would get into hopeless trouble if they tried to make an arrangement by which the local authority would pay rent and yet the schools remain voluntary; he did not see how it could be done.

(3.10.) DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said this question of rent was one of extreme importance. He could not

quite follow the right hon. Gentleman. On the 2nd of May last, when he asked if it was competent for the managers of a public elementary school not provided by the local authority to make a charge for school buildings, he was answered in the negative. He was, in fact, told it would be impossible for managers to make any charge for a public elementary school. Now he gathered that they might make a charge subject to the consequences that might follow if the Bill contained a definition in a certain way. It was notorious that large sums had been taken from School Boards by all denominations for rent. No doubt it had often been paid back in the form of the voluntary contribution, but what he wished to call attention to was that every time there had been an addition to public aid, there had been an increase in the rent charged for schools, and this had been mentioned in the Report of the Education Department after the passing of the Voluntary Schools Act. The report ran—

“My Lords have regretted to find that in certain cases, happily not very numerous, a new rent, or an increased rent, has been charged since the passing of the Voluntary Schools Act.”

The Parliamentary Return showed that a number of schools, many of them without voluntary contributions at all, made enormous demands on the Education Department for rent. All denominations were offenders in this respect, and especially so the Wesleyans. When the First Lord made the statement that there was to be no charge for rent, the Wesleyans, who were building a school at Leigh in Lancashire, dropped their operations at once and abandoned the scheme. The managers of some of these Schools charged £200, £300, £400 and even £600 a year for the rent of these buildings; and that was true of all parts of the country. And whenever there had been an addition to the Government grants there had been an addition to the rents.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he quite recognised the interest and importance of the point which the hon. Gentleman was discussing, but was it really relevant to the Amendment before the Committee?

Dr. Macnamara.

The Amendment dealt, and dealt only, with the rent paid by the local education authority for the school, small or big as the case might be; but it did not seem to him to have anything whatever to do with the point now being debated by the hon. Member for North Camberwell.

DR. MACNAMARA: But the local education authority will be compelled to pay these rents.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Then in that case the schools would become provided schools.

DR. MACNAMARA said he would sit down at once if he thought that he had departed from the precise point before the Committee. The local education authority would be compelled to pay these rents; and the point he wanted to get clear was, would the Government say that the Bill did provide, at some stage, that where the local education authority was charged any rent for the use of the school buildings, that school would be treated as a provided school, and be under the entire control of the local education authority, and would be undenominational in its religious instruction. That was the real issue. He would quote from a Parliamentary Return, giving an illustration of each case. The Talbot Roman Catholic School, Preston, charged a rent of £653 2s., and the voluntary subscriptions amounted to £496 11s., though he must say that the money paid as rent went to improve the school. Then, in regard to the British Schools, there was the case of Grimshaw Street School, Preston, in which the rental charge was £70 and the voluntary contributions £3 3s.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON said that that was not a denominational school.

DR. MACNAMARA: No; but it was a denominational school. Then there was St. Paul's Square Presbyterian School, Preston, which took £48 in rent and there were no voluntary contributions at all. He did not think he need pursue this subject any further, but would refer hon. Members to the report

of Mr. Holman, His Majesty's Inspector of Schools, published in the Blue Books a year or two ago. In that report it was stated that the finances of the Preston schools were absolutely unsound, and ought to be audited by the Public Auditor.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped his hon. friend the Member for Preston would resist the challenge which had been thrown out to him, and not delay the procedure with the Bill by discussing this extraneous question which had been imported into the debate. Everyone was aware that in some cases, and at some places, those concerned with voluntary schools had represented an imaginary rent as the amount of their subscription to the school. But that was a matter between them and the Board of Education. It had been suggested that the statement in the item of rent did not show justly the amount which was contributed to the schools, but that was a hundred miles away from the question which the Committee was now discussing. The question was, what would happen if the local education authority took over the use and control of a school, either for the whole time or a portion of the time during the week? If the local education authority took over the use and control of the school, with or without the rent—the rent was not the important question—to the extent that they acquired the use and control of the school, the Government intended that it should be a provided school. It was so now under the provisions of Section 23 of the Act of 1870; and if, by any arrangement outside that section, the use and control of the school should pass to the local education authority, he suggested to the Committee that the proper way to deal with this point was by definition, when they came to the proper part of the Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will you do that?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that his right hon. friend had already stated that he thought some definition would probably be necessary upon this point; but the terms of that definition required very careful consideration. He suggested that the matter should stand over to the proper time.

MR. WHITLEY said that not being a lawyer he had not been able to follow the course of the Attorney General's argument; but he understood from the statement of the First Lord of the Treasury, that where money was provided by the local authority, either out of the rates or through them from the Education Department, that was taken for the purpose of the rent of buildings during the day school hours, that that was to be considered a provided school. If that were made perfectly clear, he should not think of pressing the particular words he had suggested to a division. But he should like to ask, in view of what the right hon. Gentleman had told the Committee, whether he would put down words on the paper before the adjournment for this part of the Session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly before the adjournment.

MR. WHITLEY said that in that case he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said that the statement made by the First Lord of the Treasury was very satisfactory. The right hon. Gentleman had said that his Amendment applied to the provided schools, and to the aided schools as well. But the statement of the Attorney General limited the application to the provided schools. He ventured to say that the Attorney General did not seem to grasp the point. The right hon. and learned Gentleman's statement had reference to the schools, which, being now denominational, were taken over by the local authority, either wholly or partly, during the week, and in that case the right hon. and learned Gentleman said that these schools would be regarded as provided schools, and that any rent charged would cause them to be regarded as provided schools. The question was as to aided schools. The school budget being provided for, partly by the State and partly by the local authority, if any item of economic rent appeared in that Budget, from that moment would the school cease to be a denominational school and become a provided school?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought it would be impossible for the local authority to give any aid of the kind referred to, which was not to be a school provided by themselves; but if they paid a rent for it, then it should become, as he understood it, a provided school, for the hours during which the local education authority had control.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

(3.27.) MR. McKENNA proposed an Amendment, under which any school not provided by the local education authority, and—

“Which is the only public elementary school within a radius of three miles,”

would be treated as a provided school. It had nothing to do with the Amendment of his hon. friend, which dealt with areas. Where there was only one school within a radius of three miles, the parent had no option as to which school he should send his child to. In a town where there were denominational and undenominational schools, it might be reasonable, although he did not agree with it, that the denominational schools should be maintained out of public funds; but where the parent had no option, it appeared to him that the only school available should not be a school of a particular denomination, having the atmosphere of that denomination, and yet paid for wholly out of public funds. It was said yesterday by the First Lord of the Treasury that the local education authority had full control of secular education in these denominational schools. That was, if he might say so, with great respect to the First Lord of the Treasury, a fundamental mistake. It was quite true that the local education authority would have full control in outlining the education to be given; but it was the schoolmaster who would have control over the children; and he was to be appointed, not by the local education authority, but by the school managers. The Bill would give the local education authority the dry bones, keeping the juicy meat for the managers. He submitted that, where there was only one school, and the parents had no option, it was not reasonable that the children should be sent to that school to be taught

a denominational creed, or even if they absented themselves during the period of religious teaching, to be taught in a denominational atmosphere at the public expense. They were entitled to ask for some concession on the point. What were they giving up? He was quite prepared to accept the figures of hon. Gentlemen opposite. They were told that the value of the present voluntary school buildings was £22,000,000 sterling. That, at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., worked out at £450,000 a year rent; and, taking the repairs at $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of the rent, it meant that the total gift of the voluntary subscribers to the nation amounted to £600,000 a year.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see what this has to do with the three mile limit.

MR. McKENNA said he was showing that what was to be given in exchange for a great public expenditure was so small that some concession should be made in cases where the parents had no option. He intended to show what the public expenditure and the voluntary expenditure would really be.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That is the general question which was argued last night. The hon. Member must show some special reason why a school, which was the only school within a radius of three miles, should have exceptional treatment.

MR. McKENNA said he was about to say that where the taxpayer paid £10, the voluntary subscriber paid only £1, and the taxpayer did not get what he wanted—and had no chance of getting what he wanted—but he would not pursue that point. Then, again, children would be excluded from becoming pupil teachers unless they belonged to a particular denomination.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that that was a question which would come up later, and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not raise it now.

MR. McKENNA said he was merely outlying the hardships which would occur when there was only one school. Unless a child, in such a case, belonged to the denomination to which the school belonged, he would be excluded from

becoming a pupil teacher. That was a real hardship, and he asked the First Lord of the Treasury to allow parents in such cases full control as to what the denominational training should be. Why should a denominational school belonging to a minority have the patronage of the teaching profession to the exclusion of the children of the majority; and why should a child be taught in a religious atmosphere, to which the parent objected, without giving the parent any control or any option to send the child elsewhere?

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'and any school not so provided which is the only public elementary school within a radius of three miles.'"—
(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that no one, he thought, would deny—he would not deny—that the particular case the hon. Gentleman had in view, namely that of a denominational school being the only school within reach of the children in a considerable area, did present a hardship. That was one of the difficulties of the existing system, and would be one of the difficulties even of the system which would be brought into being under the Bill. Everyone who had studied the question knew that that was one of the grievances of Nonconformists; but there was a correlative grievance on the part of members of other denominations, where there was only one board school, in which case, parents could not get the religious teaching they wanted at any cost. That was one of the unfortunate results of their religious divisions. But he would point out that the Bill as drawn would diminish the grievance; because it would permit what was not permitted under the existing law, other schools to be provided of a denominational character by the local authority, or by other religious bodies than the denomination which possessed the only school in the district. Therefore, the Bill would do something, and something very material, to mitigate the evil to which the hon. Gentleman referred; but as long as the Cowper-Temple Clause was insisted on, and as

long as denominational schools were maintained, so long would the grievance exist in some form or another on both sides. All that could be done was to diminish it as much as possible; and the Bill did that. He would not refer to the point about pupil teachers, because that was a question which would come up later for discussion. Speaking broadly, the Committee would readily understand that it was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment which would result in denominationalising a very large number of denominational schools.

(3.45.) MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was very glad his hon. friend had raised the question, which was one of the greatest hardships under which Nonconformists suffered. There were 8,000 parishes which would be affected by the Amendment. They contained 9,000 denominational schools, and no other schools; and Nonconformists would be bound to send their children to those schools where the only religious education they could get would be contrary to the doctrines of their own Church.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that even Christians were not always talking about their differences.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that that did not come well from the Leader of the Party that insisted on differences between Christians. Their contention was always that Christians ought to agree on the teaching to be given in the schools; and they had given pledges of their willingness in that direction. It was because the Party of which the right hon. Gentleman was such a distinguished Leader, had refused to come to an agreement with their fellow Christians and fellow Protestants, that all these differences had arisen. The grievance could be removed without destroying the principle of the Bill. In 8,000 parishes in the country, one of the most honourable branches of the Civil Service was shut against Nonconformist children. There were between 40,000 and 50,000 teacherships in those parishes; and every penny of the salaries attaching to them was paid by the State. Every Nonconformist child was precluded by the deed of trust from entering the teaching profession. It was true, with

the consent of the trustees, certain children were allowed to come in, but a thing of this kind ought not to be left to the magnanimity of one sect. In the diocese of Bangor there were 9,500 children in the voluntary schools, of whom 75 per cent. were Nonconformists. What happened in the district? This Bill, instead of relieving, aggravated the grievance. Under the old system one-sixth of the cost of maintenance of these schools fell upon the denominationalists, and if they reckoned in the fabrics as well only one-third. Under this Bill henceforth the denominationalists would only pay one-tenth. The right hon. Gentleman could not make any concession to the Nonconformists in this matter so long as the denominationalists controlled the schools and selected the teachers. The 25 per cent. of church children got a preference to which, by no principle of equity with which he was conversant, were they entitled. In one parish of Bangor there were 110 children, and only one school—a church school—which these children were compelled by law to attend. Eighty of those children were Nonconformists, thirty were Church children. For the last thirty years they had not had a Nonconformist teacher there. He did not suggest they did not take a Nonconformist child and train him up as a teacher, but they did so only on condition that he would become a Church member. Some of the best ministers in Wales at the present time had been bought into the Church in that way. In that parish there was one Church. The Nonconformists had to maintain five chapels. The maintenance of the Church came out of rich tithes, so that the Nonconformists had to maintain it; they were compelled by law to contribute. Therefore in that parish practically the whole burden of maintaining this institution fell upon the Nonconformists and the whole of the management was given to another sect. The right hon. Gentleman said that that was part of the penalty which had to be paid for religious division. Would the right hon. Gentleman point to one civilised country where these divisions exist where the control of the Church schools was given to the minority.

Mr. Lloyd-George.

LORD HUGH CECIL (Greenwich): There is Ireland.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: In Ireland in the Catholic districts the priest managed the schools; in the Protestants districts the Protestants managed them. Could the noble Lord point out in Ireland a single Protestant parish where the Catholics were in a minority, and where the schools were controlled by the Catholics, or could he point to the converse case?

LORD HUGH CECIL: The hon. Member seems to suggest that I approve of this state of things. I have always acknowledged the grievance.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said there was a great chasm between acknowledging a grievance and remedying it. It was in the power of the noble Lord, and he knew it, to bring pressure on the Government to redress this grievance. If the extreme section of the Church party were willing to assist in redressing this grievance, he did not believe the First Lord of the Treasury was the man to stand in the way. Was the noble Lord, since he had acknowledged the grievance, prepared to get up in the course of the debate and say he would assist in redressing it? What would he do? They were entitled to know. Take the case of countries where there was denominational education—where the settlement was on the denominational basis, but where the children were divided in the parish—Holland, Manitoba, Ontario, Victoria, Switzerland, some parishes in Germany. Would he settle this grievance on the basis of any of those alternatives? Or take Quebec, where they had the most effectual denominational education in the Empire, but where, at the same time, there was a perfect system of control. Could the noble Lord point to a single case in the world where this question was settled on the basis on which it was in this country—a basis which did wrong and injustice to perfectly law-abiding citizens? Seventy-five per cent. of the children were ruled out! And the children felt it. The moment they crossed the threshold of the school they felt their position to be one of subordination and inferiority, and a school was the last place in which such a thing as that should be tolerated.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he could not support the Amendment, because the effect of it would be to introduce the Cowper-Temple Clause, which he regarded as the concentrated essence of all evil, into the rural schools, thus preventing Episcopalians from obtaining that religious teaching which they desired for their children. It was upon that ground that he objected to the Amendment, but he did not care to allow this, the first time that this particular matter had been discussed, to pass without making an urgent appeal to the noble Lord and the right hon. Gentleman to devise some scheme for remedying the grievance which it was admitted the Nonconformists had. If a plan could be devised by which this grievance might be redressed without inflicting a grievance upon other people, it would undoubtedly smooth the passage of the Bill and would have some effect in alleviating the bitterness of this discussion. So far as the Irish Catholic Members were concerned, they were prepared to support any plan which remedied that grievance without inflicting any hardship upon others.

LORD HUGH CECIL said the hon. Gentleman had travelled from China to Peru to discover different methods of settling this question, and had asked him to select one which he thought would be satisfactory. The proper course for the hon. Member, however, was to put down on paper in succession these particular proposals, and then they could judge of the merits in each case. The particular proposal now before the Committee had the disadvantage of not remedying the grievance of which he thought the hon. Member very reasonably complained. The grievance was that there was only one school, and that that school gave a form of religious education which was distasteful to a large part of the population; but under the Amendment that grievance would still exist as long as they had only one school in a district. Supposing the management altered the religious character of the school, then the grievance would be merely transferred to another set of people, and would be just as great.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: No, it would be a grievance of the minority, instead of a grievance of the majority.

LORD HUGH CECIL said the hon. Member did not mind the grievance of the minority.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: No, I did not say that.

LORD HUGH CECIL: The hon. Member had never been prepared to admit that the grievance of Churchmen in resenting a particular form of religious teaching was the same as that of Nonconformists. The true remedy was partly applied in the Bill, which provided for the erection of new schools where there was a religious grievance. The further remedy would be to allow different religious teachers to enter the schools and teach their different beliefs. But the hon. Member never would accept that.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes, I would support it.

LORD HUGH CECIL: That Amendment will come on in due course, and I hope then the hon. Member will go into the Lobby to support it.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes, if it is done all round.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he looked with terror on the vista opened up, if his noble friend and the hon. Gentleman—those two redoubtable champions—dragged the Committee into a discussion of the broadest aspects of the measure. Before they knew where they were they would be involved in a Second Reading debate. He earnestly trusted the Committee would refrain from that rather trying pleasure. They should as far as possible restrict themselves to the important point now raised, and come to a decision upon it.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) said he believed the intentions of the Government to deal with this grievance were good, but they were far too elaborate, and that the Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for North Monmouth touched the heart of the grievance better than the more elaborate Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, with all its ingenuity. It had been said that the proposal of his hon. friend was unworkable, but his hon.

friend was not so wedded to his Amendment but that he was quite prepared, if it was carried, to put down other Amendments in order to carry out his proposal. There would naturally have to be some kind of educational census in the country, and certain scheduled districts. The proposal would not result in the complete remedy of the existing grievance, perhaps, but in a considerable diminution of it. It would place within the reach of the Nonconformists and the Evangelical Protestants such a school as they desired to have. He did not believe in the existence of the Church of England parents about whose grievances they had heard so much. These grievances were but the views of a very narrow section of the clergymen of the Church of England, who were strong and were growing stronger every day in the localities to which the Amendment of his hon. friend applied. Where there was a village with only one school, there the religious difficulty arose, and education suffered in consequence. He believed that if British schools or County Council schools were opened in these villages, the extra cost would be well repaid in its good results.

*(4.12.) MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said he thought the question had been happily raised. It was a question upon which a reasonable compromise might be arrived at if the First Lord of the Treasury and the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich would give it their consideration. The First Lord of the Treasury had indicated that his own solution at the present moment would be to allow the local authority to provide small extra schools, the "thirty pupil" schools—Little Bethel schools—to meet the necessities of a certain section of the population. He could not go farther into that question at present than to say that, in the interests of education, he protested against the duplication of schools in the most emphatic way. Most people knew that in the rural districts at the present time, schools were often far too small to be efficient, and where there were now two schools there really ought only to be one. Why could not they treat the single Church School in the rural parish on a somewhat different basis, both from the schools provided by the authority

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice.

and from the denominational schools, as regarded management? Why could they not interpose a distinct type of school and make special arrangements for these intermediate schools between the two types? It was absurd to argue from the Catholic schools, which were rarely the single school and stood on a wholly different footing. The Church of England was a national institution, and stood upon a totally different basis, both morally and religiously. So long as the Church remained established all had a claim to share in the schools. His suggestion was that the Government should find a middle ground between the regulations in the provided schools and the powers given to the denominational schools. He thought it would be reasonable to have the same system as had been introduced in Lincolnshire, where they had special Church teaching on special days, and on other days simple Bible teaching, without any distinctive formularies or doctrines which might alienate the sympathies and be offensive to Nonconformists. This system worked admirably, and produced religious peace and good-fellowship in many of the parishes in Lincolnshire. Another method was to give religious teaching during special hours. The suggestion to duplicate the schools and support these reactionary and ill-equipped little schools as a solution of this difficulty was a suicidal policy, educationally and religiously. He appealed to the First Lord of the Treasury to try to find some *modus vivendi* for these rural parishes, where an enormous amount of ill-feeling had been caused in the past; and he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether they could not find a solution of this difficulty by placing these schools in some intermediate position between the provided schools and the denominational schools.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) asked if the Prime Minister was prepared to say that, in a largely predominant Church village with a High Church parson and a Low Church majority of inhabitants, it would be possible for those Low Churchmen to have a school of their own. In his opinion, that would be absolutely impossible. An inquiry must be held by the Board of Education, which was a State Department, which recognised a State Church;

and therefore any inquiry held by the Board of Education would raise the whole question of Ritualism, and the Board of Education would be called upon to decide between one branch of the Anglican Church and the other. It would be impossible for the Board of Education to hold any such inquiry. He thought it was most advisable that Clauses 9 and 10 should be amended in the direction he had indicated, and he should cordially support the Amendment.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne) said he wished to appeal to hon. Members who belonged to the Evangelical Church party, and who held strong views, judging from their public utterances, to support this Amendment. Judging from their speeches, their views were just as strong upon this question as those who sat on the opposite side. At a meeting held in connection with the Church Association at Exeter Hall the chairman (Mr. James Inskip) said—

“The work of the Association was never more needed than today. They were engaged in a great battle against sacerdotalism and sacramentalism. The Education Bill was introduced to satisfy the High Church party, and was calculated to work great mischief. They were not met to revile their neighbours, but to set up their own banner. They were angry, but they did well to be angry with a righteous anger.”

At the same meeting the following resolution was carried, with one dissentient—

“That the prevalence of Romish heresy among a large section of the clergy of the Established Church makes them unfit and untrustworthy guardians of religious education in the schools of the nation, and that no scheme of religious education which leaves to the clergy the determination of what shall be taught in public schools can be satisfactory or deserving of support at the present juncture. The combination of the priests of the Roman and Anglican Churches to monopolise the education of the young, and to capture the board schools, is a danger to the purity of the faith and to the freedom of the English people, and ought to be resisted in the interests of both civil and religious liberty.”

In moving this resolution, the Rev. W. R. Mowll said—

“The clergy had, as a body, shown themselves lacking in backbone, knowledge of the times, and power to act. If only the Evangelical party would stand firm and shoulder to shoulder, the whole question would soon be dealt with. It was their bounden duty to resist the Bill, and offer it the most strenuous opposition. They should say to the Government, If you intend this Bill to pass, let the Bible, pure and simple, be taught without creed or catechism.”

He appealed to members of the Evangelical party opposite to get a little backbone into themselves and vote for an Amendment which was on all fours with what they desired equally with the supporters of this Amendment. This proposal seemed to him to be a most reasonable settlement. He should certainly look to the division list with considerable interest upon this Amendment, and he looked to some of the members of the Evangelical party with confidence for support. If they would only vote as a body along with the Liberal Unionist Nonconformists in support of this Amendment, it would have as great an effect as winning the Leeds election next week.

*MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) thought this Amendment was a sort of compromise by which the Government could do something to mitigate the opposition which their proposals had caused. The unfairness in the case of a single school belonging to a denomination where there was no alternative school, was the worst of the evils which this controversy raised. This point was emphasised in a speech delivered by the Colonial Secretary some years ago, in which he pointed out this evil in the voluntary system. There was a village in Cambridgeshire called Toft which had only one denominational school, which was managed by a denominational committee. Half the people in that village were Nonconformists. Two years ago a new clergyman came to that village, and he found in the school a woman teacher who had been there for fifteen years. He quarrelled with her—it was not quite clear on what particular point, but it was supposed to be over a new catechism. The matter was brought before the managers, and they dismissed the teacher. She had given thorough satisfaction to the greater part of the village, and so much were the people pleased with her teaching that they asked her to remain and carry on another school. She consented to do so, although they could not provide a salary for her. There were now two schools running in that village. The point which he wanted to insist upon was that if the managing

body had been representative of the whole village, even if they had dismissed that teacher, the people would have said, "Well, after all, it is our representatives who have done it," and there would never have been that split in the village which was now spoiling the friendly feeling between the two sections there. That was the consequence of leaving the management of what ought to be a matter of universal interest in the hands of one section. From another point of view, it was most important that at any rate some of the schools should be managed by the representatives of the people. They were setting up the County Council as the controlling authority, and they were hoping to get an interest in education through the County Council. The only way in which they would excite in the people a permanent interest in education was by giving them the feeling that they could control the schools intimately themselves. That alone would give them an understanding of those higher ideas of policy which were required on the County Council. He, therefore, sincerely hoped that where a compromise could be made by the Government they would attempt to do it in this particular respect.

(4.32.) Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said this was not a matter on which Irishmen could be expected to give a silent vote. He remembered that in his boyhood in Ireland there was nothing that so much excited animosity, and the feeling of subordination and inferiority of which the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Burghs spoke, as the fact that there was a large number of schools in Ireland, richly endowed and greatly patronised by the authorities, the purpose of which was to proselytise the children of Catholic parents, and entice them away into the religion of Englishmen and Protestants. When hon. Members brought before the Committee cases in which was the suspicion, and in some cases, he was afraid, the well-grounded suspicion, that the resources of the State were being given to a particular sect or school for the purpose of seducing children into the religion of that school, the sympathies of every

Mr. Trevelyan.

Irishman must naturally be evoked on behalf of the Nonconformists. The hon. Member for the Carnarvon Burghs had made a statement founded on his own experience. Was there any hon. Gentleman opposite who would regard it as a just and tolerable state of things that there should be eighty children of Nonconformist parents out of 110 in a school, and that the entire management of the school should be in the hands of the sect which was in a minority? That was a state of things which no Irishman could be expected to support. From the moment the Bill was brought in, the Irish Members gave fair warning to the Government that they would support the Nonconformists in the endeavour to get this grievance remedied, so far as principle would admit. The grievance was admitted by hon. Gentlemen opposite. It was admitted by the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich, whom he took as representing the high-water mark of Church feeling on the subject. The noble Lord's answer was that they had no remedy for it. That was a position of impotence which no Government ought to take up when dealing with so supreme and vital a question as national education. He put it to hon. Gentlemen opposite whether, when they were beginning a new chapter in education, and in the Christianity of the country, they could have a worse thing than the fierce religious warfare illustrated by the case to which the hon. Member for the Ellon Division referred. It was not for him to say whether the threats of violent action which some of the friends and supporters of the Nonconformists in the country had uttered would be realised, but what was evident to every man in this House was that, unless some compromise was made on this question, there would be a great deal of religious feeling and animosity aroused, and he would have no respect for the Nonconformists if they did not revolt against the oppression which was proposed. This question affected 8,000 parishes. The Prime Minister had said that the effect of the Amendment would be to undenominationalise all the Church schools in these parishes. His own interpretation of the Amendment was that the effect of it would practically be to exclude from all those denominational schools.

denominational teaching, and to substitute therefor what was roughly called the compromise under the Cowper-Temple Clause. That was *anathema maranatha* to the Catholic Church. The Bishop of Raphoe was a tolerant and high-minded ecclesiastic of the Catholic Church, who would be as much inclined to sympathise with Nonconformists as any of them, but he had heard him say that he would sooner have an extreme form of Protestantism taught in a school than the form of religion which came under the Cowper-Temple Clause. It was unfair to ask hon. Gentlemen opposite to accept the Amendment. It was for the State physician to prescribe what should be done, and not a simple member of the Opposition; but this he did say—that the Nonconformists of this country were entitled to demand that a clear and broad distinction should be made between localities where the parents had a choice of schools, and localities where they had no choice. That was a proposition which would get the universal assent of the House. A parent who had only one school to which he could send his child was in an entirely different position from the parent who had a choice of schools. He would not deal with the objection which might be urged that a certain number of Nonconformist parents had the right to call for and get the establishment of a school representing their views. The multiplication of small schools would, he thought, be a great disadvantage. He had put before the Committee the general principle. It was not for him to suggest to those in charge of the Bill in what particular way that principle could be carried out. He was clear in his own mind that the Nonconformists had a legitimate grievance, that that grievance had met with an impotent answer, and that that grievance reached its maximum when the Nonconformist parents had nothing but a Church of England school to send their children to.

MR. MCKENNA said that, although the construction of the Amendment, if it stood alone, might be perfectly right, its purpose was to distinguish between schools where the parents had no option and other aided schools.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) said that the meaning of the Amendment was that a difference should be made between those schools to which all children—Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Nonconformists—must go, and other schools. He ventured to appeal to the Government, as one who had done all he could to arrive at something like a reasonable compromise on this most difficult question, to try and find some means by which those schools should be differentiated from other schools. It was not necessary that the managers of those schools should be preponderatingly chosen by the local authority, or that denominational teaching should be excluded from the curriculum. It was becoming increasingly apparent that the attempt to deal with public schools and denominational schools was not sufficient, for there was the case of the Roman Catholic schools, which, he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Aberdeen, should be treated on a different basis. Very often the majority of the children in the single schools were Nonconformists, and if in all the denominational schools a majority of the managers was to be of the opposite denomination from that of the children, the passing of this Bill would only be the beginning of very serious trouble. He agreed on the whole with the hon. Member for Camberwell, not only that this Bill was not meant as a clerical control Bill, but that it would not so work out. The days of one-man management had passed away, or were drawing to an end; and, at any rate, the power of the ratepayers would increase, and the power of the denominational managers would decrease. Seeing that many of the local authorities sympathised with the Opposition and not with the Government, he asked whether there was not a serious danger of reprisals being made. These authorities would have the control of all secular education. They would have the power of building new schools, which he hoped they would not have to do; but with these powers in their hands, he was certain that reprisals would be possible, and it was because he did not wish to see this war carried on under the Bill that he earnestly asked the Government to consider the grievance.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said he wanted to ask, if the management of these 8,000 schools was placed in the hands of denominational managers, by what

means did the right hon. Gentleman propose to compel those managers to upset, tolerate, and employ Nonconformist teachers and Nonconformist masters and mistresses? If once complete denominational management and control was established, by what means could this very real grievance be removed? Two or three months ago a person writing a reply to a letter in regard to this question, in behalf of the school management, frankly said: "I am sorry to say that my managers regret being unable to appoint you, because of your being a Nonconformist." Now, this teacher was admitted to possess the highest qualifications for the teaching profession. There were thousands of parish schools where, if denominational management was once established, as it would by the first part of Clause 7, the same thing would happen. There was one other grievance he wished to refer to, although he would not have done so but for the words used by the Prime Minister when he administered a severe rebuke to Members on this side of the House for introducing religious differences. He charged hon. Members with un-Christian feeling by those constant references to religious differences.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: When did I do that?

MR. BROADHURST: In an interruption to the hon. Member for Carnarvon.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

MR. BROADHURST said the words which the right hon. Gentleman used were that Christians do not attack each other, or words to that effect. The case he wished to refer to was that of a parish school with no alternative Nonconformist school within ten miles. In that parish school the person charged with the delivery of a Bible lesson, and imparting religious instruction to the scholars, ordered the children of Nonconformist families to stand on one side, and the reason given was that these children were the children of the devil, as they belonged to Nonconformist families. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] Those words were used.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): Where?

Mr. Broadhurst,

MR. BROADHURST: They would not have been used to the children had it not been known that the parents of those children were dependent for employment on persons who were strongly and wholly of the Church persuasion. It was nonsense to say that a man could maintain an independent position when he had eight or nine little children to provide for.

SIR JOHN GORST: Where were those words used?

MR. BROADHURST said that if the right hon. Gentleman would give him his word of honour that he received the information in confidence, there would be no difficulty in saying where and when. If inquiry were to be made it would give away the whole case. [Laughter from the Ministerial Benches.] He did not see where the laughter came in. If hon. Members opposite were earning only 16s. a week, with eight children to provide for, they would not laugh at the chance not only of losing their employment, but in all probability of being driven forth out of the parish without a cottage to cover their head. The right hon. Gentleman the Vice President of the Council knew of these cases as well as he did. They were not isolated cases, and such things would not be practised with parents who were independent. In nearly all cases the offences were committed against poor labouring people who had not the means of protecting themselves against these insults. And that was why the Nonconformists objected to the control of these schools by the Church party. The Nonconformists had no objection to Church doctrines being taught in the schools. If they shared in the control of the management, they would not object to Church doctrines being taught. He supported the Amendment and he hoped it would be accepted.

MR. TRITTON (Lambeth, Norwood) said he would not have troubled the Committee but for the challenge thrown out to any evangelical churchman to get up and speak in favour of this Amendment. The debate had only confirmed the opinion he had long held, that Nonconformists had a most distinct grievance

in this matter. That grievance had been admitted on all sides and if he, or any of them, could do anything to allay religious grievances, to soften religious asperities, and to knit together in peace and amity the members of the different Christian Churches, surely it was their duty to do so. He spoke as an evangelical churchman, who had had the privilege for many long years to work in harmony with members of other branches of Christ's Church militant here on earth. He saw a most bitter feeling coming up, and he was thoroughly afraid that one of the results of this Bill, if it passed in its present state, would be to accentuate their differences, and, to a considerable extent, to spoil that harmony which he had hoped was increasing. He made a most earnest appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury, to see if he could not do something to meet this acknowledged grievance. If he did not give them some compromise it would do a great deal to quicken and make more easy the passage of the Bill through the House. It would do no harm, he believed, to the Church; it would do a great deal of good to the cause of true religion. He felt so strongly that, if the First Lord did not see his way to hold out a hope of doing something to lessen this serious grievance, he should have to do what he had not yet done on this Bill—vote against the Government.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) desired to acknowledge the broad-minded spirit of the speech of the hon. Member opposite, and to second the appeal he had made to the First Lord of the Treasury to see if the right hon. Gentleman could not, either now or at some later period, produce some scheme or make some proposal which would eliminate the bitterness of a grievance admitted on both sides of the House. Unless something was done, in this new departure upon education, to do away with this friction, the national system of education would not be improved but quite the contrary. It was quite obvious after what had been said on all sides of the House that there was an admitted grievance, and if the present Government refused to deal with it, it would be the duty of those who succeeded them to do so.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said it was, he felt, impossible for him to add to the force of the speech of the hon. Member for the Scotland Division, but he desired to identify himself in the fullest possible way with the spirit of that speech, and he trusted the Prime Minister would not turn a deaf ear to the appeal made to him from all parts of the House. Speaking for the Irish Party, who in the main had supported the Government in this Bill, he did think their views ought to have some influence with the right hon. Gentleman. They felt most strongly that here was a serious grievance which had not been denied from any part of the House, and for his part it seemed to him that it would be perfectly easy for the right hon. Gentleman, without in the smallest degree imperilling those interests which he had at heart, to propose some compromise which would go a long way towards mitigating a legitimate grievance of a large portion of the people of this country. He earnestly appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to set his mind to the task of devising a compromise which would do something towards remedying this grievance.

*(5.10.) SIR MICHAEL FOSTER (London University) rose with some diffidence to make a suggestion with reference to the Amendment now before the Committee, because he approached this subject from a different point of view to that of many Members on both sides of the House. He was one of those who had long been convinced that the only, not only logical but sound and satisfactory, way of dealing with their difficulties was to separate secular education entirely from religious education—that the public ought to pay for and control the secular education only, and that the religious education should be paid for and controlled by private sources. In the interest of the schools and also of religion, he would make the school the teacher of tolerance of all kinds of faith and not a source of bitterness and strife. He was told that the view which he was urging was not practicable. The Prime Minister, on Saturday, said the country would not stand it. He accepted the situation, and he accepted it all the more willingly on account of the favour with which he observed the Cowper-Temple

Clause was received on both sides of the House. He believed the Cowper-Temple Clause had been called an illogical compromise. He ventured to think it had only been as successful as it had been, because it had also been as illogically carried out. Though he was convinced that every bit of knowledge well and truly taught went to form character, yet he recognised that at the present time the best way of effectively and speedily forming character was to make use of religion, and by religion he meant something based on a definite belief. Unless both secular and religious teaching were made use of, public education would always be halting. The Prime Minister had said that the country would not stand such a system of education as he was in favour of. Well, the suggestion he had now to make to him was this—was he willing to make an experiment by which in the small areas under discussion, which could not be dealt with in other ways, there should be introduced schools which should be controlled by the people, but in which schools, in the absence of any other suitable school, each denomination might give the teaching of its own?

shire. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthen-

Mr W.) said he agreed with the principle laid down by the hon. Member who had just sat down. He had always thought that Nonconformists made a great mistake when they abandoned the system of secular instruction only. He did not believe the day school was the proper place to teach religion, or the master of that school the proper person to teach it. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would agree to accept this Amendment, or make some substantial concession in this direction. If all churchmen spoke as the hon. Member for Norwood spoke, and approached the question in that way, he did not believe that there would be any difficulty in the management of their public elementary schools in any part of the country. Unless something were done to meet the Nonconformists in a fair and reasonable spirit, he believed they would have a controversy such as had not been experienced for a long time past. He pointed out that this Amendment dealt with rural districts, and that it was there that the grievance was a real and

a serious one. Previous to the passing of the Act of 1870 these schools were built by the joint effort of Churchmen and Nonconformists. These schools had in some surreptitious manner got into the hands of one religious body, who taught doctrines in the schools which Nonconformists believed to be theologically wrong and politically unsound, and it was proposed by this Bill to perpetuate these grievances. The cleverest of the Nonconformist boys and girls were shut out altogether from the teaching profession unless they became members of the Church. They had either to abandon their profession or sacrifice their religious principles. That was a real and crying grievance which he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would endeavour to remove.

MR. WALLACE (Perth) hoped it was not imagined that his hon. friend was not prepared to accept changes in the Amendment which would carry out the object which he really desired. Whatever his private opinion of the Cowper-Temple Clause might be, he would not be a party to doing anything indirectly which the House would not wish to do directly. They were not seeking to turn all these schools under the Cowper-Temple Clause. He had great sympathy with the views expressed by the hon. Member for London University, whose view he took to be to have united secular education and separate religious instruction. Their grievance was that there was only one school in a district in which doctrines were taught, to which evangelical Churchmen objected as strongly as Nonconformists.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought the Government had no right to complain of the style and tenor of the speeches, but they did complain of the substance of the criticisms of some of the details put forward in the Bill. He admitted that there was a grievance. He had never denied it since he first spoke on education in that House, which was now many years ago, more years than he cared to remember. He admitted that with regard to schools in some districts, there was reason to fear that there was a real grievance to the Nonconformists. They were told by the

Sir Michael Foster.

hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, that the Government, having admitted the grievance and not remedied it, it was a scandalous admission of legislative impotence. Well, they all knew that there were many ills which should be remedied.

"How small, of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure."

The charge that the Government had shown want of goodwill in this matter was, he thought, unreasonable. There were other grievances which he did not find hon. Gentlemen on the other side so very anxious to remedy, and in regard to which no reproach was brought against the occupants of the Treasury Bench. As he understood the matter, the particular weight of the charge was that there was only denominational teaching provided in a great many schools where a large number of children in attendance did not belong to the particular denomination. What remedy was proposed by the Amendment before the Committee? That Amendment apparently met the favour of his hon. friend behind him. He had heard his speech with sympathy, but his conclusion with astonishment. What his hon. friend was going to vote for was an Amendment which absolutely destroyed the denominational character of 8,000 denominational schools. The Amendment, though hardly anybody would have guessed it from the speeches which had been delivered, was that the management of these schools should be precisely the same as the management in schools provided by the education authority. What was that system? The management was one which had no denominational character at all.

Mr. McKENNA said the system of appointing managers would become the same, but there was nothing in the Amendment which would apply the Cowper-Temple Clause to these schools.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR thought the hon. Member was correct in saying the Amendment did not carry with it the Cowper-Temple Clause, but it would carry with it the absolute undenominationalisation of the whole school management. It would absolutely

exclude managers who would have the power of managing under the trust, and substitute persons appointed by the County Council. To adopt that as a remedy for this grievance which the Committee had had unfolded to them seemed to him the most extraordinary and extravagant course which the Committee could adopt. Gentlemen who did not like the Amendment were, it was said, going to vote for it as a protest. He hoped that would not be the case. The result would be, if they had their way, that an Amendment which they did not approve would be introduced into the Bill, and the Bill would be absolutely destroyed. He was one of those who had always thought that this difficulty might be met by permitting outside denominational teaching of all kinds in the school, if a sufficient number of parents desired it. That was the principle of the Clause which the Government introduced into the Act of 1897, for which they were soundly rated by the Nonconformists, and against which there was a Nonconformist agitation. He had seen some of the pamphlets against that Clause. If anything in any degree on those lines would settle this question, or go any important way towards settling it, well and good. He did not see why there should be any difference between the two sides of the House on that subject. ["With public control or without?"] But that interruption showed that it was not the teaching which was wanted, but an alteration of the management of the schools. The hon. Gentleman who had just spoken would be content with the solution which he offered; but the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment was not content that the children of Nonconformist parents should have teaching in accordance with the religious opinions of those parents. If that would satisfy him, he thought he could promise him satisfaction. He hoped his hon. friend behind him noticed from the ominous silence which now reigned on the Benches opposite that that was not the solution which they desired, or with which they would be content. It did not satisfy them that when there were a sufficient number of children, those children should be taught the religion which their parents

desired them to be taught. What they wanted was to get hold of the schools which now belonged to the denomination, and hand them over to managers who were quite fitted and ought to deal with schools provided by the local authority, but who surely ought not to be given the absolute control, so far as managers had control, of schools provided by special denominations. The issue before the Committee was—Would they, or would they not, undenominationalise these schools? It was not, as his hon. friend appeared to think—Would they, or would they not, force down the throats of reluctant children, or the children of reluctant parents, denominational teaching of which they disapproved? That was covered by the conscience Clause. Nor was it a question whether they would provide those children with the teaching of which their parents approved, because that could be managed. He thought the Committee would be most ill-advised if, under the cover of this Amendment, brought forward nominally in the interests of religious toleration, they were to deal with these 8,000 schools in a manner which he was sure was not in conformity with the general wishes of the community.

(5.36.) SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said the speech of the right hon. Gentleman would have been more satisfactory if it had been less vague, and it would have been less satisfactory if it had not been so sympathetic, and he did not know which of these views to take. The right hon. Gentleman had spoken of promising satisfaction to the desire that the children of Non-conformists should not be taught doctrines with which their parents did not agree and should receive the religious education of which their parents would approve. But why had he not given that satisfaction? The whole of the question depended upon the provisions by which that point would be met. The silence on which the right hon. Gentleman commented was due to the fact that hon. Members on that side had never heard of any such intention on the part of the Government, and were at a loss to know what the right hon. Gentleman was going to do. They

were anxious to know exactly what would be put before them before expressing their approval. The right hon. Gentleman did not observe that the claim made went beyond the question of religious teaching, and did not, on the other hand, go quite so far as he had tried to frighten the Committee into believing. The claim was not that these schools should be placed wholly under public control; it was that the public voice should be heard in the control of these schools. There was no claim that the schools should be absolutely denominationalised; the claim was that the management should be denominationalised, should be made less of a monopoly of one sect, and that public interest in the locality should be fully represented in the management. He thought his hon. friend the Member for North Monmouth was much to be congratulated on having pointed to this particular case and having shown the way in which it could be dealt with. The right hon. Gentleman had recognised the grievance, but said that it could not be cured by human laws. The grievance had, however, been created by human laws, and he was afraid it could only be remedied by further laws. He trusted, however, that what they had gained from the right hon. Gentleman might not be little. He had stated that he understood the grievance, and had publicly expressed his desire to remove the cause of the grievance. He had promised satisfaction in regard to that part of the question which affected religious teaching. Let him go a little further. Let him recognise that to leave these schools—the only schools to which these children could go—under the hard and fast system of the Bill, would be a gross injustice, and that some way ought to be discovered of meeting a grievance, the existence of which he had candidly and spontaneously acknowledged.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said that while the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, in so far as it was sympathetic, was very satisfactory, it was not really comforting to know that the grievance had been recognised for so long without any practical effort having been made to remove it. The right hon.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

Gentleman had admitted that the Amendment would not inflict the Cowper-Temple Clause upon denominational schools, and suggested that the Opposition should be satisfied with the opportunity for all denominations to teach the children of their members their particular doctrines. But the First Lord thought the arrangement should there come to an end, and described the suggestion that he should go one step further and accept the principle of public management as absurd and extravagant. That view could not be accepted. What did the right hon. Gentleman mean when he spoke of "undenominationalising" these schools? The only object of securing denominational management in these schools was to secure exclusively denominational teaching, but if the right hon. Gentleman once agreed to abolish that exclusively denominational teaching, on what ground could he seek to have exclusive control or management? Public control could do no harm to the rights of the denominational system in the schools. The right hon. Gentleman had taunted them with being silent in regard to this matter. One of the most important grievances was that in the schools which these children were compelled to attend, the doors were practically closed to them with regard to the teaching profession. What they sought to introduce into this Clause was that the management should be public and that the door should no longer be closed to those children. That was why the control should be public. The management should be public so that they might have for all children and teachers an equal chance for all denominations. He did not see why the right hon. Gentleman should taunt them with silence in this matter, when they were insisting upon public control and equal opportunities for all.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) thought it would be a great pity if this House and the country was left in ignorance of what the views of the Government were upon the matter to which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded. The hon. Member who had just spoken had dealt with denominational teaching and management, but he thought those questions might be dealt with separately. The right hon. Gentleman was of opinion that

there was another method of dealing with the grievance in regard to denominational teachers, and he said that he saw his way to give them satisfaction upon that point. But why should they not now know what the views of the Government were upon that question? He thought it would be a great pity if this afternoon they did not have some definite idea of what the right hon. Gentleman meant when he said that he recognised the grievance in a country village that children could only receive one form of denominational teaching, and that they could not receive that form of religious teaching which the parents—who might form a majority of the parish—might desire. That was the feeling which was very extensive throughout the country, and it was one of the great sources of bitterness in this controversy. He was aware that they would have frequent opportunities of dealing with this question of denominational management, but, in his opinion, it would be an immense advantage in dealing with this measure if they knew what the right hon. Gentleman had in his mind as the solution, which he regarded as satisfactory, in reference to denominational teaching, and which might meet the views of hon. Members who were not members of the Church of England. It had been rightly pointed out that this was a grievance which was felt, not merely by Nonconformists but also by members of the Evangelical Church. It was a grievance of a very real character, and it was the source of all the friction in this matter. If the right hon. Gentleman had in his mind some method of removing that grievance, it would be a very great relief to people, not only in this House but also in the country, if the Government would state their views upon it. They might, at any rate, partially redress the injustice if they were not prepared to remove the whole of it. He felt sure that the First Lord of the Treasury would not be unwilling to listen to the appeal that he should let the Committee know how far he would go in this direction. Having admitted the existence of this grievance in frank and sympathetic tones, and having told the Committee that, as regarded a portion of that grievance he was prepared to deal with it, the right hon. Gentleman should now go further, and at this very critical period of the Bill at which much might be determined as to the spirit in

which it would be dealt with, tell the Committee at least how far this portion of the grievance could be redressed, and what was really in his mind. By doing this the right hon. Gentleman might, at all events, throw oil upon the troubled waters which might perhaps have some effect in allaying the storm, and if it did not remedy the whole grievance it might remove a portion of it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he supposed he must answer the appeal of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire, although he confessed that his previous replies had not tended to shorten the debates. This debate had already gone very wide upon a comparatively narrow point. Now what was the grievance which he had admitted? It was that there was no teaching available in those single school districts of a kind that the majority of the parents of the children attending the school in those districts desired. That was the grievance. That grievance could be met by permitting such teaching in the schools, whether they be voluntary schools or Board schools. What was sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander, and the principle applicable to the one was also applicable to the other. If they permitted denominational teaching under these circumstances to be given in a solitary Board school, in precisely the same way they could provide for undenominational or Cowper-Temple teaching in those single school districts where those schools belonged to a particular denomination. Those were the general lines upon which a remedy of this grievance should proceed. If that was the grievance which the Committee generally felt, he could not doubt that they would be able to find some general solution. He begged the House now to come to a decision.

* (5.55.) SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said he considered himself something of an authority with regard to the question now before the Committee. He said this because he did not think any other hon. Member had taken the pains he had done to ascertain the feelings of hon. Members on both sides of the House with regard to this difficulty.

Sir William Harcourt.

He invited the First Lord of the Treasury to think as kindly as he could of them, because the more considerate he was in regard to the grievances of Nonconformists the more assuredly would he satisfy his own followers, for he knew that hon. Gentlemen opposite were almost one and all desirous of satisfying the feelings of those who sat on the Opposition side of the House. This proposal entirely failed to meet the grievance which was keenly felt. Something had been said about the pupil teachers, but that was not enough to meet the case, and it was not sufficient to say that Nonconformists would be able to become teachers in those schools. Granted that religious teaching in accordance with the wishes of the parents was given, they did not think it was right that the one denomination should be able to appoint all the teachers, and by their votes exclude other denominations. If this matter were left to the free vote of the parishes in the country, he did not believe any set of people would decide to exclude the teachers of various denominations. Wherever the experiment was tried, kindly feeling and consideration were assured, and wherever there was freedom in this matter there was peace. Therefore he asked for freedom for the people in each locality to choose the teachers, and not leave it to one religious sect. He was satisfied that the right hon. Gentleman's followers wished to meet them, and he asked that hon. Members should be left free to vote as they liked.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) said he approached this question with a sincere desire to secure the best possible results. Their object on both sides was to develop good citizens, and it was generally held that moral principles must be inculcated in order that this should be successfully done. Therefore, he had great sympathy with Gentlemen who supported the denominational system. In a village with which he was acquainted there was only one school, and it was connected with the Church of England. The Rector, desiring to meet the wishes of his Nonconformist parishioners, undertook to provide non-sectarian

education in the elementary school. However, under the pressure of public opinion among Churchmen in the neighbourhood, he had to recede from that position. Eventually, the school committee decided that religion of an unsectarian character should be given during the first half hour on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and that on Friday, after the school had been formally dismissed, those children whose parents desired it should remain for the teaching of the Church Catechism.

*THE CHAIRMAN: That has nothing to do with the present Amendment.

*MR. HELME said he would try to keep to the point before the Committee. But he argued that there should be provided in school districts such management as would be secured by the Amendment. He would read as briefly as possible the resolutions passed by the Methodist Conference, which was a non-political church, to which he invited their attention. One of the resolutions expressed deep regret that steps had not been taken by past Governments to carry out their policy declared some years ago in regard to education (there was no allusion to the present Bill in that resolution), namely, that its primary object was the establishment of School Boards everywhere.

* THE CHAIRMAN: I must invite the hon. Member to be more relevant to the Amendment.

*MR. HELME said he would endeavour to obey the ruling. The resolution concluded with the words—

“And the placing of a Christian unsectarian school within reasonable distance of every family.”

This was of special importance in rural districts, where Nonconformists had no alternative to the compulsory attendance of their children at Anglican schools. He therefore asked the Committee to consider the expressed views of so large a church, which were shared by all the

other Nonconformist churches, and which together formed a majority of the people of this country. Further, he urged that, as the Government proposed to re-open the compact of 1870—by which it was agreed that all rate-aided schools should be unsectarian—consideration should be given to their views in the new settlement, so he hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would consider the appeal which had been made to him by the hon. Member for Norwood, and that he would find out some practical way of meeting the views of Nonconformists in regard to the provision of unsectarian teaching.

MR. DILLON said that he was deeply disappointed by the attitude taken up by the First Lord of the Treasury on this question. It was a question on which he thought the right hon. Gentleman would at least be willing to make an effort to meet the admitted grievance of the Nonconformists. He saw no promise of any proposal to meet that grievance in a generous spirit.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said I would meet it.

MR. DILLON said he listened sympathetically to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and he did not think it contained any promise that an endeavour would be made to meet the grievance. That, at least, was the interpretation he placed on the speech. Unless this grievance were met, the cause of denominational education in this country would be put in the most serious jeopardy. A reaction would set in with such force that the denominational schools would be in danger of being swept away altogether. The denominationalists were parting with more of their power over the schools generally than they realised; and if the measure did not pass as a *concordat* in a spirit of conciliation and peace, if this grievance were left undressed, it would mean the opening of a new war, in which the Nonconformists would have advantages they had not hitherto possessed. In these circumstances it was only natural that the

Irish Catholics, who formed a small minority, should be afraid that between the unreasoning policy of the Church of England party on the Ministerial side, and the consequent instigation of Nonconformist animosity, their own schools might be wiped out of existence in the ensuing struggle. The Irish Party could not support the Amendment, for reasons which had been given; but they would not support the Government in resisting the demand for some redress. Did anyone in this House say that in the 8,000 parishes where there was only one school to which the Nonconformists could resort, that these schools were not used as instruments to proselytise the Nonconformist children, and place them in a position of inferiority? It would be impossible for the Irish Catholics to support such a system, and all they could do under these circumstances, in view of the speech of the First Lord of the Treasury, was to withdraw from the House altogether.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear!

*MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) said he wanted to refer to what had happened when his friend the hon. Member for Leicester was quoting a case of hardship. The hon. Member was met with derisive cries of "Where," the implication being, as had often occurred before, that unless the circumstance, time, and place, were all given, there was no truth in the story. Now the grievance they were discussing was admitted, but no adequate remedy had been proposed by the First Lord. He would point out that, in his opinion, hon. Members opposite did not hear of those grievances in the way hon. Members on this side of the House did. There was a vast number more of them than hon. Gentlemen opposite had any idea of, but they could not be brought forward because the grievances would be only thereby accentuated, and the Nonconformist parents and children would be victimised by the teachers and managers. He would give a case with the names. A gentleman named Mr. Benjamin Elsmere, a missionary of the Society of Friends, living at No. 11, Brooklands Terrace, Swansea, some time ago went to reside in a small country village. In that village there was only one school, a Church school, and he sent his children to it. His

little boy was questioned on the principles and doctrines of the Church of England, and one of the questions was something about who was his godmother. The child, knowing nothing about it, said he had only one mother, and for this, that child was laid across the desk and caned severely. [Loud cries of "Oh, oh!"]

SIR JOHN GORST: Will the hon. Gentleman give the name of that school?

*MR. H. J. WILSON said he had not the name of the school at that moment, but he had given the name of the man. He had a letter in his possession, with name of place and all particulars, although not in his pocket, and would give it to the right hon. Gentleman, or to any Member of the House. There was no secrecy about this case. In consequence of what had occurred, Mr. Elsmere withdrew his children, this boy and two girls, from religious instruction, under the Conscience Clause, and for that they were subjected to the most offensive treatment. They were told to stand aside because their father did not believe the Bible. He knew the right hon. Gentleman would repudiate and condemn such treatment as that. The law was not made for people who knew how to behave themselves, but for the protection of citizens from the lawless. There was one other thing he wanted to say. He was glad to hear the hon. Member for London University speak as he had done. He was glad that the hon. Member had been supported by a Welsh member and a Scotch member. He desired, as an English member, to associate himself with those hon. Members who said that the only logical solution of the question was united secular and separate religious instruction.

DR. MACNAMARA said he hoped that the Statement made by the hon. Member for Holmfirth would be probed to the bottom; but, until he heard the case proved, he should refuse to believe it. He was very much obliged to the First Lord of the Treasury for the way he had treated this question. There was a remedy in the Bill, but he believed it was entirely unworkable, and, even if it were workable, it would be disastrous, and educationally grotesque.

Mr. Dillon.

As a practical man he wished to point out to the First Lord that they were dealing with Clause 27 of the Bill of 1896. That clause provided that in all denominational schools the local education authority, in town or country, should be granted the right to bring in outside denominational teachers and give the children specific denominational teaching in accordance with the faith of their fathers. And from the cheers with which that plan was received he thought that was a line which might be acceptable to many members of the Committee. He should be profoundly disappointed if it was. It must be remembered that in many parish schools there is only one room, and how could they get eight or nine Wesleyan children in one corner, and the same number of Anglicans in another corner, and impart to them in that fashion serious religious instruction? He did not see the necessity of breaking up the children into these pens. He believed in common vital religious teaching. He had a great respect for the clergy of all denominations, but sometimes they failed to convince him as an adult. What he maintained was that the clergy were not trained to deliver themselves in that simple way which would commend itself to the children. He had another serious question—

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was now not even discussing the Bill, and he would invite him to give his attention to the clause before the Committee.

DR. MACNAMARA said certainly he ought to have dealt entirely with the alternative.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he had sketched out an alternative, but he thought that example ought not to be abused.

DR. MACNAMARA said he was not inclined to abuse anything or anybody. He saw the difficulty, and was as anxious as the right hon. Gentleman to find a solution. But the solution in the clause would be an impracticable one, and it would take out of the hands of the teachers their most important function, viz., that of religious instruction. He had been a teacher himself, and he would have strongly objected if any one had taken away from him the right to give religious instruction. He did not want to see volunteer teachers of all denominations upsetting the harmony and discipline of the schools.

(6.26.) Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 124 ; Noes, 243. (Division List No. 310.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Hy.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Banes, Major George Edwd.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crenier, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, William (Carn'v'nshire)
Kitson, Sir James
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
McKenna, Reginald
McLaren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 Palmer, Sir Charles (Durham)
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Russell, T. W.
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)

Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soames, Arthur Wellesley
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Haastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Tomkinson, James
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
 Wilson, Fred W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William McArthur.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus Hry. Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Archdale, Edward Mervyn
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Baird, John George Alexander
 Balcarres, Lord
 Baldwin, Alfred
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bhowagagree, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Bill, Charles
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffiths
 Boulnois, Edmund
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brown Alexander H. (Shropsh)
 Bull, William James
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Carew, James Laurence
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole

Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, SW)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H. (City of Lond.)
 Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
 Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
 Gore, Hon. G. R. C. Ormsby- (Salop)
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ys Edm'nds)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs.)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midd'x)

Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hickman, Sir Alfred
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir William Hny
 Howard, John (Kent Faversham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Kimber, Henry
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmth)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham)
 Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowth-er, Rt. Hon. James (Kent)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 Maconochie, A. W.
 MacIver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W)
 MacKillop, James (Stirling-sh.)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hon. Fred (Monm'thsh)

Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Peel, Hon. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne

Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (I. of Wight)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
 Smith, H. C. (North'm. Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
 Stanley, Ed. Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Surt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE. (Taunton)
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Powell (Birm)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburch, Robert Armstrong
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR then formally moved to leave out from "authority" to the end of the clause, with the view of inserting the Amendment of which he had given notice.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, to leave out from the word 'authority,' to end of clause, and insert the words—'shall, where the local education authority are the Council of a county, have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers not exceeding four appointed by that Council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority. Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district they may, if they think fit, appoint for any school provided by them, such number of managers as they may determine.

"(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed—

"(a) Where the local education authority are the Council of a county, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority; and (b) Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

"(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is, or has been during the last twelve months, a scholar in the school.

"(4) The 'minor local authority' means the Council of any borough or urban district, or the Parish Council or (where there is no Parish

Council) the Parish Meeting of any parish which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority the County Council shall make such provision as they think proper for joint appointment by the authorities concerned."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question proposed "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Clause."

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman or one of his colleagues had not thought fit to give the Committee some information with reference to this important Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN said this was the first of a string of Amendments which had been put down by the right hon. Gentleman, and formed part of the Amendment moved yesterday on which the principle had been discussed.

SIR WALTER FOSTER thought instruction would be beneficial, but he would as far as possible apply himself to the Amendment without. Personally he was disposed to view the Amendment with disappointment, because many high hopes had been based upon its effect.

*THE CHAIRMAN said it was not competent for the hon. Member to reopen the discussion on the same points as the Committee had decided the previous day.

SIR WALTER FOSTER pointed out that the Amendment dealt with the entire management of the schools of the country.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that this point had been discussed the previous day.

SIR WALTER FOSTER asked whether the Committee was then to be deprived of the power to refer to the management of the voluntary schools.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the present Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman was consequential on the first Amendment which had been already moved. The right hon. Gentleman had moved a series of Amendments, and on the first Amendment the discussion had been taken. If the hon. Member could say anything relevant to the Question he had now put from the chair which was not a repetition of the discussion of the previous day he might do so, but he was not entitled to go over the same ground covered in the previous discussion.

MR. DILLON said that he had refrained from speaking the previous day in the belief that his opportunity would now come. According to the ruling of the Chair the Committee could not discuss anything on the present Amendment. He thought that no previous discussion could prevent the Committee from discussing the Amendment now put from the Chair.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that this argument would be applicable to a whole string of Amendments. It had always been customary for the Committee to take the discussion on the first Amendment and then to move Amendments to the others as occasion might serve. Supposing that instead of this being one Amendment it was divided into six compartments, it would not be open to re-discuss the same question on each of the six Amendments.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT said that this Amendment contained the whole of the proposals of the Government with reference to the management of schools. The real Amendment was to strike out Clause 7. Surely it was permitted to discuss the propriety of these proposals. The Amendment which the Committee considered yesterday was a merely verbal Amendment.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the discussion of the verbal Amendment occupied the whole of the sitting; and what was discussed was not a small verbal Amendment, but the Amendment now before the Committee. If the Committee were to re-discuss that now, what did it settle yesterday? Nothing. He felt bound to rule that the Committee settled the principle of this Amendment yesterday.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said he could not see how the mere technical omission of the words which were left out on the previous day should preclude a discussion on the words of the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman. These words were omitted to provide an alternative.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was wrong. If he referred to a Report of what occurred, he would see that it was the principle and not the omission of these particular words that were discussed. He was bound to hold that the Committee decided something. That being so, what it decided was to accept the spirit of this new Amendment. It might be open to the Committee when the Amendment was amended by the insertion of words to discuss the whole question.

SIR WALTER FOSTER submitted that in discussing the omission of the words the Committee had a right to consider the proposals in detail.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that the ruling of the Chairman led to the conclusion that yesterday's discussion was out of order, rather than the discussion on the present Amendment. The Committee was asked to leave out certain words in order to prepare the way for other words, not in

nubibus but definite. Now was the time to consider the new proposal as compared with the old. There were many members who intended to take part in the debate, and who had no idea that yesterday was the only opportunity for doing so.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is not the only opportunity.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the Committee were not out of order yesterday in discussing the whole question on the first Amendment of the First Lord of the Treasury. It constantly happened that a string of Amendments were moved to carry out a particular object; and then the principle was decided on the first of the series. He had not the slightest doubt about the matter. No hon. Member was precluded from taking part in the discussion yesterday.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) pointed out that the Amendment today was not the same as yesterday. There was a paragraph now introduced which did not appear yesterday, and which, therefore, could not form part of the discussion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR urged that the new paragraph was discussed yesterday, and because it was discussed, it was introduced.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the right hon. Gentleman was entitled to move to insert any words he liked as soon as the Committee had got rid of the words in the Clause.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE submitted that a part of Clause 8 ought not to have been taken out and inserted in Clause 7. The most controversial part of Clause 8 had been taken out and introduced into Clause 7. It was an unfair thing to do, and its object was only to kill the agitation against the Bill. That was stated by one of the organs of the Government.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was not in order in discussing that question.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the question was that certain words should stand part of the Bill. He wished them to stand part.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member could hardly mean that; because, if [his wish were given effect to, there would be no verb in the Clause. If the hon. Member objected to certain words having been taken from Clause 8 he could move to strike them out of the Amendment at the proper time.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he knew he should be in order then, but he objected to the whole of the words of the Amendment. He objected to the method of drafting. The Amendment was not proposed with a view to providing a good educational authority, if the organs of the right hon. Gentleman's own party were to be believed, it was for some propose wholly irrelevant to the Bill. If that was so, it was unfair to the Committee and the Bill, and he objected to it.

*MR. CHANNING took exception to the omission of the words "under Section 15 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870," and desired to move an Amendment by which power would be reserved to the Committee to deal with those words after the Amendment of the First Lord had been dealt with.

*THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that that would be an alternative Amendment to that proposed by the First Lord, and that the right hon. Gentleman took precedence because he was in charge of the Bill.

*MR. CHANNING said in that case he would resist the Amendment on the ground that it struck out the powers of the local education authority under section 15 of the Act of 1870. The Vice President had stated that the managers appointed under the present Bill would be the creatures of and absolutely controlled by the education authority. The words of the section to which he referred secured to the local authority that power over the managers in the schools provided—

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is now re-discussing the point we decided yesterday. This Amendment is an alternative to the latter part of the Clause, and the Committee decided yesterday in principle to accept the alternative.

*MR. CHANNING asked whether he was not entitled to discuss the exclusion of the powers under section 15 of the Act of 1870.

*THE CHAIRMAN thought not, as that was before the Committee on the previous day, when, as he had said, it was decided in principle to accept the Amendment of the First Lord. He invited the Committee not to go back on that decision, but to make such Amendments as they thought were desirable in the Amendment proposed by the First Lord.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorgan-shire, Mid) said the tangle into

which the Government had got was entirely of their own making. The Clause as it would stand after the omission of these words dealt with nothing at all, and he supposed for that reason it would be open to Members to put down any Amendments they pleased. He agreed with the Government that, as a matter of drafting, subsection (c) of Clause 8 ought to be in Clause 7, but the mischief which had been done was entirely due to the Government or their draftsman.

(7.8.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 91; Noes, 267. (Division List No. 311.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Aqaith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremier, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie

Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Chas. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carmarthen-shire)
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McKenno, Reginald
McLaren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Rea, Russell
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)

Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Russell, T. W.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamor. Gower)
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Lloyd-George and
Mr. Channing.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allhusen, Augustus Hry. Eden
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord

Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward

Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Connis, W.
Butcher, John George
Carew, James Laurence
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)

Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
 Chapman, Edward
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Culbitt, Hon. Henry
 Cullinan, J.
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dillon, John
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dix'n
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Doughty, George
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
 Esmonde, Sir Thomas
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
 P'rench, Peter
 Field, William
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
 Gardner, Ernest
 Garfit, William
 Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. B'ry S. Edm'nds
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
 Grettton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halevy, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Mid'x
 Hammond, John
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W.
 Harrington, Timothy
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.

Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
 Hornby, Sir William Henry
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houston, Robert Paterson
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
 Keswick, William
 Kimber, Henry
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. James (Kent
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'iver, Sir Lewis (Edinb'gh W
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bate
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
 O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'ry, Mid
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry W.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)

Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Robinson, Brooke
 Roche, John
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Roys, Clement Molyneux
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
 Smith, H. C. (North'mb. Tyneside
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
 St. uley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir. Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tuffnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tully, Jasper
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Whiteley, H. (Asht'n und. Lyne
 Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said it was very important that an opportunity should be allowed of avoiding the appointment of separate managers for separate schools, and if they chose they should be allowed to group the schools under the same managers. If those schools were inefficient, the reason was not far to seek. It was largely because having only one school, and that a very small school, of course their view was a very narrow one, and their experience was naturally very limited. It had become an impossibility for managers with only the experience of a small school to have that opportunity of comparison of arrangements which should be allowed to managers in order to secure the most efficient kind of teaching. The experience which managers ought to possess could only be gained by comparison of the progress made in one school with another. It was important that the local authority should have this opportunity of grouping certain schools together. In many villages it would be a great relief to the education authority to be able to choose their managers from a congregation of villages. In one particular village it might be impossible to find half a dozen suitable gentlemen, whereas by bringing in two or three villages together they would probably be able to get better men to join the Board of Management. As his Amendment stood, it would affect only schools provided by the authority, but even in that limited way it would be of great use.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, after 'shall' to insert 'either singly or in a group.'"—(Mr. Alfred Hutton.)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he quite agreed that something ought to be done in regard to the grouping of schools, but he did not think that this Amendment was the best way to do it. If the hon. Member would look on page 30 of the white Paper he would see an Amendment which carried out his view in a more extended form, and which stood in the name of his hon. friend the Member for Somerset. He suggested that, as the

words would come in better lower down, the discussion on the point might be deferred.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON: I beg leave to withdraw my Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again this evening.

— EVENING SITTING.

— OPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NORTH AND SOUTH SHIELDS ELECTRIC RAILWAY BILL [Lords] (BY ORDER).

As amended, considered.

*(9.0.) MR. PLUMMER (Newcastle) moved to add a clause requiring the Company to provide proper accommodation for conveyance of bicycles by all trains, but not more than six in one train. He was aware of the general feeling among Members who were averse from having matters of comparative unimportance, which had been decided by a Committee, brought up again before the House of Commons; but, in this case, there had been no consideration of the question, the Chairman having ruled that the cyclists had no *locus standi*. The Bill was one for the construction of an electric tube under the River Tyne, and the Company asked to be relieved from any obligation to carry bicycles at all. The population of Tyneside exceeded a million, and last year 44,000 cycles were carried by the old ferry steamer, so that it was a matter of some importance to all concerned. Cycling was no longer merely a pastime, but a real necessity, and not of professional men alone. He could testify to the increasing use of cycles by working men of late years, and it did not a little in certain districts to solve the housing question. He regarded the cycle as the working man's motor car. It might be argued that cyclists could still use the old out-of-date ferry

service; but there was no guarantee, as far as he could find, that the present rate of service would be continued. He was not aware of anything but the pressure of local opinion to prevent those responsible for the service from dropping it to a half-hour service, or even less. Apart from that, on one side of the river, at any rate, there was a hill approaching the ferry which was certainly awkward, and very often dangerous to cyclists. He claimed for cyclists in common with other sections of the community, the right to participate in the improved facilities which science was placing at our disposal. Parliament always recognised the salutary rule that the powers it conferred on public companies carried with them obligations, and zealously guarded against the companies picking and choosing the convenient and profitable traffic and leaving the rest. He believed it was alleged by the promoters that the adoption of the clause would hamper them in the working of their scheme; but that was guarded against by the limit placed on the number of machines carried. It appeared that it was proposed the train should stop only thirty seconds at each end of the tube; but he did not believe the folks of Shields wished for this scurrying, neck-breaking, heart-disease producing mode of progress. It was further pointed out by the promoters that other electric tube railways had not had similar obligations imposed upon them; but this was not an electric tube railway in the ordinary sense of the word, but a short tunnel. Then the promoters stated they were advised that it was mechanically impossible, and that the additional expenditure would seriously interfere with the financial prospects of the company. He could not, however, believe that in these days of engineering skill and mechanical progress, especially in the North of England, it was impossible to devise some means whereby cycles could be carried.

A Clause (Company to carry bicycles)
—(*Mr. Plummer*)—brought up, and read the first and second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed,
“That the Clause be added to the Bill.”

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MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham N. W.) said he was not interested financially or personally in this scheme. He would like to point out it could scarcely be called a railway. It was more of the nature of a tram line which was intended to afford a cheap and rapid transit from one side of the river to the other. The great object of these railways was to carry passengers, and there was no provision made in these cases for luggage of any kind, because it was realised that if luggage were allowed it would involve delay and some danger to the public. The suggestion now made that the company should be compelled to provide for the carriage of six bicycles by each train would necessitate invidious selection and obviously cause not a little disorder when there happened to be more than six waiting to cross. Cyclists already had an excellent means of crossing by the ferry boats. He quite recognised the spirit in which the Cyclists' Touring Club had approached this matter but he rather deprecated the pressure put upon M.Ps. to take a step which was not in the interest of the public generally.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) opposed the Clause. He was greatly interested in the question of rapid communication when it was closely connected with the housing difficulty. The object of tubular railways was to secure rapid means of transit in order that—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The general question cannot be discussed on this Bill. The point is whether cycles shall be carried through this particular tunnel under the River Tyne.

CAPTAIN NORTON said he had no intention of discussing the general question. This tubular railway was to serve a population of a quarter of a million, and it was strongly supported by the Tyneside Council as well as the Corporations of the large towns concerned and he did not think it fair to attempt to force this duty on the Company. They ought to have some direction from the Board of Trade on this matter; some hint as to whether that Department approved this proposal.

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He was well aware that cyclists were worse provided for in this country than in any other, but he doubted the wisdom of imposing a special obligation in this case.

Mr. ROBSON (South Shields) said he would certainly do nothing to imperil or impede the progress of this Bill; but he was bound to admit that the cyclists of the two towns did not receive fair and adequate treatment under the Bill. The hon. Member who had last spoken said the cyclist had been refused a *locus standi* before the Committee. That was quite true, and that was the reason that they were called upon to discuss the Amendment now. His hon. friend had stated that there were sufficient means of transit for cyclists across the river. The question, however, was whether that means of traffic would last in anything like its present sufficiency when this Bill had passed. When his hon. friend talked of placing an obligation upon this Company which was not imposed on any other railway, he forgot that one of the matters into which a Committee had to inquire was whether any section of the community found its facilities diminished by granting facilities to any company. At South Shields there was at present a ferry which ran every fifteen minutes; but if their Bill were passed, that ferry service would be very likely diminished, because, when they had electric trams running under the river every six minutes, traffic would be diverted to that new means of communication. The ferry, if it was maintained, would not in all probability run with its present frequency: and, while the general public would be advantaged by the new means of transit, the cyclists would find their facilities lessened. Those who supported this Amendment had endeavoured to impose as little inconvenience as possible on the Company, and, with that desire, had consented to the absurd restriction that not more than six cycles should be carried at a time, and the price charged to be three times as much as that charged for the conveyance of cycles over the ferry.

(9.30.) Mr. PARKER SMITH (Lanarkshire, Partick) said he agreed that the floor of this House was a most inconvenient place to discuss whether bicycles

should be carried by this railway or not, but it was in consequence of the *locus* of the petitioners having been disallowed before the Committee that this discussion was now taking place. He thought the Standing Orders ought to be altered. He was Chairman of the Court of Referees, which disallowed the *locus* of the petitioners in this case. That Court was not concerned with the merits of the case, but decided against the right of bicyclists to petition upon technical grounds. He had, however, subsequently looked into the question, and had satisfied himself that on the merits he should have gone against the bicyclists, because the scheme was intended purely for passengers, and the obligation sought to be imposed would be a serious hindrance. At the same time, he thought the Standing Orders ought to be extended, so as to allow bodies like the Cyclists' Touring Club to have an opportunity in the same way as Chambers of Commerce or Agriculture of being heard before the Committee.

* Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member would not be in order in discussing the desirability of amending the Standing Orders.

* Mr. PARKER SMITH said he would vote against the Clause being inserted in the Bill.

SIR FORTESCUE FLANNERY (Yorkshire, Shipley) said he knew the localities to be served by this railway. Hitherto the means of getting across the river Tyne had been steam ferries, which worked very efficiently; but if this Bill passed the effect would be to direct a large proportion of the passenger traffic from the boats to the railway, and the boats would in all probability be largely withdrawn. It was the duty of the House to give the greatest possible facilities to all members of the public, even including cyclists. He was therefore of opinion that the justice of the case could best be met by admitting cyclists to have the facilities they desired.

* Mr. CORRIE GRANT said that the promoters of a private Bill, who came to the House asking privileges of any kind, must obey the rules set down

Capt. Norton.

in the Standing Orders, and, therefore, they had a right to expect that no new condition should be imposed on them while their Bill was before the House. What was now proposed was to impose on this company a new condition which had not been laid on any other electric tube railway company. That new condition had been laid on them while the Bill was passing through the House. The hon. Member for Newcastle said this was not a tube railway at all, but practically a tunnel. He was not an engineer, but he could not see the difference between the Central London Railway and that now proposed, except that the one was eight or nine miles long, with thirteen stations, and the other three-quarters of a mile long, with two stations. The whole object of the railway was to give quicker means of communication between North and South Shields, the intention being to run trains every six minutes. It was necessary to the scheme that there should be speed in conducting the traffic. If bicycles were allowed to be carried, the difficulties of quick working would be increased. He hoped the House would not impose this new condition on the company.

MR. BRYCE said it appeared to him that the argument of the hon. Member for Newcastle was a very strong one, because what was proposed to be done by the promoters of the Bill was actually to diminish the facilities at present enjoyed by cyclists. Cycling had become all over the country a means of rapid communication for business purposes. His own experience, as a traveller who sometimes had his cycle conveyed by the underground railway, convinced him that there would be no difficulty in carrying bicycles on this line. He regretted that the Standing Orders did not permit of the petitioners bringing their case before a Committee of the House.

(9.53.) MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said this House was bound to take cognisance of the change in the times, and to see that tube railway companies, to which they gave very valuable rights, provided the public with accommodation to the utmost possible extent. It seemed to him that the refusal to carry

bicycles was quite behind the times, seeing the great commercial uses to which these machines were now put, and that Parliament was giving this company great powers, including that of going under the river.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) said that the hon. Member for Rugby had spoken about millionaires on the south side of the river. He did not know that millionaires were plentiful, but he knew that there were a large number of working men who lived on both sides of the river, and had to pass over the river to and from their work. Supposing, on account of the competition of the tube railway, the ferry should fall out of use, if the tube railway refused to carry their bicycles, what were the working men to do? He did not know as much about railway law as, perhaps, he should; but it was clear to him that this House, in considering railway Bills, should have some regard to the feelings and wants of the people. There was no use drawing a comparison between this proposed tube and the tubes in London. In no part of the country was the population so congested as in this particular district, and workmen ought to have every possible means of access to their work. The company was not providing these tubes for the convenience of work-people; their first consideration was to make profit. But if Parliament had the power to do so, they should make some provision for the cheap transit of cyclists and their machines.

MR. ALFRED THOMAS (Glamorgan-shire, E.) said that this railway company was trying to get a great privilege from Parliament for the purpose of making profit. They were justly entitled, therefore, to ask the railway company to do something in return in the way of carrying men to and from their work.

MR. CRAWFORD SMITH (North-umberland, Tyneside) said that if cyclists were allowed to carry their bicycles in the proposed tube they would come in shoals every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. There was a ferry every half mile on the Tyne, and cyclists had ample facilities for crossing the river by that means, and they would not lose more than four minutes anywhere by using the ferry boats as compared with the tube.

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland) said that no serious argument had been offered against the concession which would be made by the adoption of the proposed Clause. There were no engineering difficulties, and he thought he might take it that the promoters did not feel that the concession asked for would seriously interfere with the working of the railway.

MR. SHAW (Stafford) said that, as an old member of a cyclists' club, he knew that a large number of workmen had their homes on one side of the river and their business on the other, and that involved the constant use of their

cycles. He was glad to hear that there were no serious engineering difficulties in making the concession, and he marvelled at the modesty of the request, and that the railway company should refuse such a small matter.

MR. H. J. WILSON said he had hoped the House would have heard something on this question from the President of the Board of Trade.

(10.13.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 219; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 312.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)	Delany, William	Langley, Batty
Abraham, William (Rhonda)	Devlin, Joseph	Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)	Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)	Layland-Barratt, Francis
Ambrose, Robert	Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles	Leamy, Edmund
Anson, Sir William Reynell	Dillon, John	Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Archdale, Edward Mervyn	Donelan, Capt. A.	Leigh, Sir Joseph
Arkwright, John Stanhope	Doogan, P. C.	Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Arrol, Sir William	Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)	Levy, Maurice
Ashton, Thomas Gair	Doxford, Sir William Theodore	Lewis, John Herbert
Bain, Col. James Robert	Duke, Henry Edward	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol)
Baird, John George Alexander	Duncan, J. Hastings	Lowther, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Cum. Penr.)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)	Edwards, Frank	Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch)	Farrell, James Patrick	Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Bartley, George, C. T.	Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.	Lundon, W.
Bignold, Arthur	Fenwick, Charles	Macdona, John Cumming
Bill, Charles	Ffrench, Peter	MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
Boland, John	Fisher, William Hayes	Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose	MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-	Flannery, Sir Fortescue	MacVeagh, Jeremiah
Bousfield, William Robert	Flavin, Michael Joseph	M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Bowles, Capt. H. F. (Middlesex)	Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, SW.)	M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W)
Brigg, John	Fuller, J. M. F.	M'Kean, John
Broadhurst, Henry	Gardner, Ernest	M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu	Goddard, Daniel Ford	Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)	Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Bull, William James	Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Burke, E. Haviland	Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
Butcher, John George	Grenfell, William Henry	Mooney, John J.
Caldwell, James	Gretton, John	More, Robert Jasper (Shropsh're)
Cameron, Robert	Hammond, John	Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)	Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.	Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.	Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)	Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Cawley, Frederick	Harwood, George	Morrell, George Herbert
Cayzer, Sir Charles William	Hayden, John Patrick	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deftford)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)	Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale	Murphy, John
Channing, Francis Allston	Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Charrington, Spencer	Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.	Nannetti, Joseph P.
Coghill, Douglas Harry	Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)	Nichol, Donald Ninian
Cohen, Benjamin Louis	Holland, Sir William Henry	Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N)
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse	Horniman, Frederick John	Norman, Henry
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole	Howard, J. Midd., Tottenham	Nussey, Thomas Willans
Compton, Lord Alwyne	Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)	O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, N.)	Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse	O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
Craig, Robert Hunter	Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.	O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
Cubitt, Hon. Henry	Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)	O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
Cullinan, J.	Jordan, Jeremiah	O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
Dalrymple, Sir Charles	Joyce, Michael	O'Donnell, T. (Kerry W.)
Davenport, William Bromley-	Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.	O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)	Kenyon, Hn. George T. (D'nigh)	Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)

Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymian, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Rea, Russell
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William (Snowdon)

Roche, John
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Russell, T. W.
 Scott, Chas. (Prestwich, Leigh)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Spear, John Ward
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Stroyan, John
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ)
 Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E)
 Thomas, Sir Alf. (Glam'rg'n, E)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
 Thornton, Percy, M.
 Tollemache, Henry James

Tomkinson, James
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tully, Jasper
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A.C.E. (Taunton)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 White, Luke (York, E.R.)
 Whiteley, H. (Asht'nund, Lyne)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry, J. (York, W.R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Plummer and Mr.
 John Wilson (Durham).

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Anstruther, H. T.
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (D'rbysire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Chapman, Edward
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Cremer, William Randal
 Cros, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Greene, Sir EW (B'ryse Edm'nds)

Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Marq. of L'ndnderry
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareh'm)
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 McKillop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Robinson Brooke

Round, Rt. Hn. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Crawford Smith and
 Mr. Corrie Grant.

*MR. SPEAKER: The next Amendment is, to insert after "parcels" the words "and bicycles." The word "parcels" is referred to in several Clauses of the Bill; to which is the Amendment to apply?

MR. PLUMMER said it was in Clause 63, page 48, line 10.

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no word "parcels" in that line.

MR. ROBSON said that the word appeared in that line in the copy of the Bill he had.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is reading from a different copy of the Bill to that which I have.

MR. PLUMMER said he would move the Amendment in Clause 59.

Amendment made—

"In Clause 59, page 46, line 5, after 'parcels' to insert 'and bicycles.'"

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 59, page 46, line 5, to leave out '6d.' in order to insert '3d.'"—(Mr. Plummer.)

*MR. PARKER SMITH asked whether the copy of the Bill which Mr. Speaker had was the latest copy, because before the Committee of the House of Commons the line containing the word "6d." was struck out of the Bill altogether.

*MR. SPEAKER: The copy I have is the copy which was furnished to me. I presumed it was the proper copy; though what the hon. Member has just said makes it doubtful, certainly.]

MR. HERBERT LEWIS asked if, in the circumstances, the proper course would not be to adjourn the debate in order that Mr. Speaker and the House might be furnished with proper copies of the Bill. Although they were only dealing with one particular Bill, they were laying down precedents of great importance. He begged to move that the debate be now adjourned.

*MR. SPEAKER: What I understand is, that in the copy of the Bill I have the Commons' Amendments have not been entered up; and, therefore, the last Amendment was perfectly in order, and in its right place. In the copy I have the word "sixpence" stands in Clause 59, page 46, line 5, but I understand that the Committee of the House of Commons struck it out altogether.

MR. PARKER SMITH said that the whole line was struck out.

*MR. SPEAKER: There has been a mistake, obviously, in this Bill; and I must call the attention of the House to it. The copy of the Bill placed on the Table corresponds with my copy, which, therefore, I assumed to be the correct Bill. It seems, however, that the Bill upon the Table is not the Bill as amended by the Committee. The Bill as amended by the Committee shows that the lines and figures of the hon. Members' Amendments are correct, and, therefore, Clause 63 is the Clause in which the previous Amendment stands. That need not affect the decision of the House as effecting the insertion of the words "and bicycles" after "parcels," if the House will allow the words to be

inserted in Section 63 instead of in Section 59. It appears to me that if this matter had been properly dealt with in the offices of the House, this difficulty would not have arisen. I will put the question now as it stands on the Paper, as that turns out to be correct.

Amendment made—

"In Clause 63, page 48, after line 26, to insert 'for every bicycle 3d.'"

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said he begged to move the omission of "6d." in line 27, and the insertion of "1d." A passenger was to be carried for 1d, whereas 6d. was to be charged for a dog. It was a distinct insult to the man that a dog should be considered six times more valuable than he. They were all agreed that it was desirable to cultivate affection for domestic animals, and no animal was more companionable than a dog; but if 6d. was to be charged, the dog would very probably be left at home.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 48, line 27, to leave out the word 'sixpence,' and insert the words 'one penny'—(Mr. Keir Hardie)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the word 'sixpence' stand part of the Bill."

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) said he hoped the House would not agree to the Amendment.

(10.43.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 164; Noes, 129. (Division List No. 313.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anstruther, H. T.
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arrol, Sir William
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Brigg, John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Cameron, Robert
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cremer, William Randal
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles

Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hon. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim

Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry S. Edm'nds)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 (Greene, W. Raymond - (Cambs.)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Grettton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Gunter, Sir Robert
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'r'ry)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, Rt. Hn. J. W. (Cum. Penr.)
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Macdonald, John Cumming

MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W)
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire)
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (W'ltamstow)
 Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Grah'm (Bute)
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Pilkington, Lieut. - Col. Richard
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 R. lleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Russell, T. W.
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-

Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, H. C. (North'mb. Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lt. - Col. Edward
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt. - Col. ACE (Taunton)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-und. Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Plummer and Mr.
 Robson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud)
 Allhusen, Augustus H'ny Eden
 Ambrose, Robert
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bill, Charles
 Boland, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Caine, William Sproston
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Cullinan, J.
 Davies, M. Vaughan - (Cardigan)
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogen, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings

Edwards, Frank
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 French, Peter
 Field, William
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hammond, John
 Harwood, George
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hemphill. Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, William (Carnar'v'nshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Langley, Batty
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Leigh, Sir Joseph
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)

Lundon, W.
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Kean, John
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Mooney, John J.
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Murphy, John
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newnes, Sir George
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Norman, Henry
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 Nussey, Thomas Willans
 O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'r'ry Mid)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Partington, Oswald
 Philipps, John Wynford
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Pryce-Jones, Lt. - Col. Edward
 Reckitt, Harold James
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, William (Clare)

Renwick, George
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Roche, John
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal

Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomkinson, James
 Tully, Jasper
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)

Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr.
 Lough.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said he wished to move the omission of the concluding words of Clause 63. As at present drafted, it would appear that a person bringing home a parcel from market containing eight or ten separate articles might be called upon to pay 3d. for each separate package. The words he proposed to leave out were: "Provided always that articles sent in large aggregate quantities and so made up in separate articles, such as bags of sugar, coffee, meal, and the like, shall not be deemed small parcels, but that the term shall apply only to single packages in separate parcels." He did not understand the meaning of the words, and for that reason he would refuse to vote for the Bill until he had an explanation. If it meant that a woman returning from market was to be charged 3d. for each packet she had in her basket, such a provision ought not to be allowed to pass without a protest. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 48, line 28, to leave out from the word 'provided,' to the word 'packages' in line 31, both inclusive."—(Mr. Keir Hardie.)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Bill."

*MR. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) said that the Amendment was more suited to the Committee stage. If the hon. Member would read again the proviso to which he objected, he would find that it actually carried out what he wished. For instance, if a grocer wished to send half a dozen parcels from North Shields to South Shields, instead of having to pay a certain sum for each parcel, he was entitled to have them weighed together and to pay one sum.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked what rate would be charged on a small parcel. They were told—

* MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member cannot address the House twice.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said that after the explanation which had been given he would withdraw the Amendment, but he hoped that in future the Chairman of Committees would see that Bills were properly drafted.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Bill to be read the third time.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Clause 7:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words 'shall, where the local education authority are the Council of a county, have a body of managers consisting of a body of managers not exceeding four appointed by that Council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority.

'Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, they may, if they think fit, appoint for any school provided by them such number of managers as they may determine.

'(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed—

'(a) Where the local education authority are the Council of a county, one by that Council and one by the minor local authority; and

'(b) Where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

'(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority, or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is or has been during the last twelve months a scholar in the school.

'(4) The "minor local authority" means the Council of any borough or urban district, or the Parish Council, or (where there is no Parish Council) the parish meeting of any parish which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority, the County Council shall make such provision as they think proper for joint appointment by the authorities concerned."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(11.5.) MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said, in the absence of his hon. friend the Member for East Northamptonshire, he desired to move the Amendment standing in his name. It raised the question of the management of schools provided by the local authority, and provided that that should be delegated entirely to the minor local authority, which was explained as the Council of a borough or urban district, or a Parish Council. With regard to the Council of a borough or urban district, what would happen would be that the Council would appoint a Committee, called the Education Committee; and all the Amendment proposed was that that Committee should practically be the Board of Management of the district. There was a great deal to be said for it. It would be absurd to have one Committee controlling education and another Committee managing the schools, as the work would be practically the same. The most serious part of the question was the handing over of the management entirely to the Parish Councils. The Amendment proposed that the Parish Council should be the sole managing body, and he thought that in many districts that would be a most valuable provision. It would at any rate have the advantage of obviating the composite boards which had been proposed, and which would have no direct responsibility to the ratepayers. That was certainly an advantage in favour of the Amendment. Under the composite Board of Management suggested by the Prime Minister, what would happen? First of all, the County Council would appoint a Committee. That was two

removes from the electors. Next, that Committee would appoint a Board of Management, which was three removes from the electors; and then some other body would also be called in. It was perfectly true that if there was any complaint with regard to the management of a school, the only way in which the parents could get at the managers would be by lodging a complaint with the County Council. The local County Councillor would have to be got at in the first instance, and then he would have to get up in the County Council, which met only once in every three months, and complain of a body which was not present. The only way in which he could get at the management would be to wait until the meeting at which the Committee was appointed; but there was nothing in the Bill providing for the period for which such Committees should be appointed. They might sit in perpetuity; they were to be the absolute arbiters of the situation; they would be life tenants of the post, unless words were introduced making it clear that they went out of office with the County Council. But assuming they were to be re-appointed whenever a new Council was elected, they could be called to account only once in three years. That was surely a very indirect way of bringing home responsibility for a local complaint. Whether the whole thing should be handed over to the Parish Council was an arguable question; his hon. friend, at any rate, suggested that the Parish Council should manage its schools, and he was not at all sure whether in some districts that ought not to be done. He would rather the County Council was given an option on that point. It was certain, however, that if the parents and ratepayers were to be interested they must be given some direct responsibility. In these districts practically the whole responsibility would be on the Board of Managers, as the County Council, having no local knowledge or other local information, would very rarely throw over the suggestions of the Board; if they did so, it would amount to a vote of want of confidence in the managers. Supposing it was necessary to make some addition to the fabric of the

school, to make the building more commodious, or to incur expenditure on apparatus or equipment, that would be a purely parochial charge, and it would be much better that the Parish Council, in such a case, should have the control and responsibility. The representative of the ratepayers would then consider the matter from the point of view, not only of the expense, but also of the advantage to the locality. In that way there was much to be said for the Amendment of his hon. friend, which he now begged to move.

Amendment proposed to the said proposed Amendment—

"After the first word 'county,' to insert the words 'shall, subject as hereinafter provided, be managed by the minor local authority, and shall.'"—(Mr. Lloyd-George.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought this would be a very unfortunate Amendment. By an earlier Clause the Bill declared that the local authority should be responsible for, and have control over, secular education. If they put, in as the managers of the school in which that secular education was to be provided, a body of gentlemen representing the parish in which the school was situated, they might conceivably have a conflict of opinion between the locally elected body and the central body. That would be very unfortunate, and militate against the whole success of the Bill. He thought that it would be far better, as they had given responsibility to the central authority, to give them the machinery by which that responsibility could be carried into effect. The representation of the minor local authority was provided for by the Bill and by the Amendment now under discussion, and he thought the machinery there provided was far more workable than that suggested by the hon Member.

MR. CHANNING said that the object was to secure efficiency in the local machinery. The right hon. Gentleman had not fully considered the question of local delegation of the duties of the county educational authority, and also the formation of Committees with the same

power as the central county Committee in respect of certain areas. The fact that such delegation was contemplated, greatly strengthened the case for imposing on the localities a responsibility for the effective management of the schools. By means of this local responsibility under the control of the central county authority, they were not vitiating that authority, but really associating with it the local life and interest in the work of education in the most effective way. They would thus secure all that could be effectively maintained under the present Bill of the chief merit of the School Boards in the past with regard to the detailed administration of education. The Amendment was really a limited adaptation of the principle of Clause 10 of the Bill of 1896; it simply concerned the question of administration, and in no sense touched the question of the denominational schools. The best way to work this educational machinery was strongly to support the central authority in the county areas, but it was obvious that that authority could not effectively attend to all the details of management without the enthusiastic and interested assistance of the localities themselves. He did not attach so much importance to the Parish Councils as his hon. friend; he thought the Amendment could be worked by the management being placed in the hands of the councils of the small boroughs and urban districts, and also of the joint councils of united parishes—the union being effected on somewhat the same lines as under the Act of 1870. He was strongly in favour of the central authority exercising a power of co-ordination and regulation over the whole education of the county, subject to local responsibility for the management under their direction, and he failed to see how his proposal would lead to any conflict with the general controlling power of the central county authority.

MR. BRYCE said he could not feel the force of the objection taken by the right hon. Gentleman to this Amendment. Upon the First Lord's own showing, there could be no conflict between the minor authority and the County Council, because the managers were entirely at the mercy of the local education authority. When Clause 6 was under discussion, the right hon. Gentleman assured the Committee that the local authority would be

Mr. Lloyd-George

supreme, that the management would have no independent powers of volition, and that they would be bound to carry out every direction of the local authority. Under those circumstances, what possible conflict could there be? Without expressing a very decided opinion as to details, the proposal had, at any rate, one recommendation, viz., that it would enable groups of schools to be at once dealt with, and there would be no necessity of introducing special provisions so far as the boroughs and urban districts were concerned, because the minor authority would at once have all these schools placed under it. In the case of boroughs and urban districts, where the School Boards had been very effective authorities, and had not been open to the objections urged against rural School Boards, the Amendment would practically restore such merits as the School Board system had. It would bring back a local body to manage small groups of schools in boroughs and urban districts, and we should have the advantage of one rating authority. Therefore, from the point of view of the Bill itself, he would have thought there was something to be said for the Amendment, and he was rather surprised the right hon. Gentleman should have dismissed it in so cavalier a fashion.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) hoped the Government would not accept the Amendment, which would destroy all links between the controlling authority and the Board of Managers. He attached supreme importance to those links being maintained. If there were representatives of the local education authority on the Board of Management, the other managers were far more likely to understand the directions given to them by the county authority, and there would not be that danger of friction and misunderstanding that there otherwise would be. The fact that a power of delegation was to be given was rather an argument against the Amendment. If the county authority thought they could secure better management by delegating their powers, they could do so under the Bill. But the body to which the powers were delegated would not be in the position proposed by the Amendment. It would not be in an

independent position: it would be simply in the position of a delegate, and would therefore be far more likely to carry out the directions of the authority from which it received its powers.

(11.30.) **MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN** said that, as one who expected to have a good deal to do—as a member of a County Council, as a manager of a voluntary school, and in other respects—with the organisation of education under this Bill, he had every confidence that if they took care to limit the spheres of action of the two bodies—of the local education authority on the one hand, and of the smaller and minor authority on the other—not only would there be no danger of their clashing, but, on the contrary, they would get the wider outlook of the larger authority and the closer and minuter attention of the minor authority. In his own county, a large and sparsely populated district, there were ninety-three elementary schools, scattered over nearly 500,000 acres; and obviously it would be quite impossible for the County Council to manage the details of each individual school. It would be necessary for the county authorities to delegate their powers to smaller bodies, and those smaller bodies should be given a distinct status in order to get the best people to serve on them, and also a certain local rating power, so as to create that interest in the schools which only pecuniary responsibility would give. In many places, elementary education had suffered, and was suffering, from want of local interest. A certain number of School Boards were doing their work very well, according to their lights and opportunities. Voluntary schools were not worked as they should be, and they did not command the confidence of the people who sent their children to them, because the great majority of the scholars were the children of Nonconformists, while the schools themselves were entirely carried on by Church people. He was not saying one word against the spirit in which the members of the Church of England carried on their schools, but he thought those schools should be guided by the central authority.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We have already resolved that the whole responsibility for the control of these schools should be in the hands of the central authority.

MR. HUMPHREYS - OWEN replied that the machinery they had hit upon carried out that control in a very ineffectual way. It was all very well to lay down general theories and say that they should have local control, but when they found the machinery for giving that control was inadequate and imperfect, then they did not gain their object at all. Unless this was provided for in the Act itself, they would not arouse local interest in this matter. He agreed with what had been said by the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire, that the local education authority should have some of its members on the governing body of the managers of the school.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said he did not think that there was the least fear of the local authority not having complete control, and if there was any doubt about it later on they would have it made stronger still by the Government proposals. The hon. Member for East Somersetshire had gone so far in his advocacy for County Councils in their work that he had really forgotten the interests of education in his anxiety to support County Councils. The first point to be gained in all educational work was to make education popular. He knew it would not be popular with the boys who went to school, but it would be made popular with the parents if they had something to do with the education provided. If the electors were connected with the education given in the schools in their district, there would be more interest taken in education, and more inclination on the part of parents to see that their children attended regularly. What they were all working for was to get a more efficient education, and the Amendment they were considering did not in any way affect the religious question. He hoped some little allowance would be made for the popularity which education would require to gain, more especially in country districts, where it was most unpopular at the present time, and where they were most likely to regard education as a tiresome thing. There was another reason which appealed very strongly to him,

and it was that they brought the managers of the schools much nearer to the directly-elected representatives of the people. He hoped this Amendment would be fairly considered, and not brushed aside as something which was quite unreasonable. It did not touch any of the principles of the Bill, and he believed it had been of very great assistance to education in the country generally.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said the hon. Member for Montgomeryshire had had much experience in every grade of education from the lowest to the highest, and he received anything he might say upon this subject with great respect. If this Amendment were adopted, it would put an immense amount of life into the small parochial schools; and to have a directly-elected body instead of a nominated one would ensure the earnest co-operation of the people. The Royal Commission which inquired into the schools some thirty years ago declared that no skill in organisation was of so much value in education as the earnest co-operation of the people. According to the report of this Commission, the American schools appeared to have no great excellence of method, but the schools were in the hands of the people, and from this fact they derived an educational force which made up for all their deficiencies in that respect. If, under the Government's scheme, some fifteen or twenty gentlemen were nominated for the various boards of management, probably with extremely imperfect knowledge of the circumstances of the neighbourhood, it was true that that would place a large amount of patronage in their hands, but he could see no earthly reason why that patronage should not be in the hands of the general body of the community, for this would add very greatly to the interest which the people would take in the schools. He thought the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Aberdeen would bear him out that in Scotland the fact that the people were so closely associated with the government of the schools added very largely indeed to the effectiveness of those schools, and had had a large effect in producing a result of which Scotsmen

all the world over were proud. In Switzerland—which had done so much for the education of the people—the communal schools were in the hands of the locality, and were practically managed by the parish council. He believed that the complete success of the Swiss educational system was largely to be ascribed to this particular fact. He agreed with the Royal Commission that in England even inferior management, if backed up by the hearty sympathy and interest of the people, would often succeed better than much greater skill without such support. The whole object of the right hon Gentle-

man appeared to be to give the power of nomination of these gentlemen, who would, no doubt, hold broad views and large sympathies: but no amount of skill in organisation could make up for the cordial popular sympathy which could only be secured in education by directly enlisting the people in the management of their own schools.

(11.48.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 80; Noes, 230. (Division List No. 314.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir James Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Craig, Robert Hunter
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Edwards, Frank
Fenwick, Charles
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McKenna, Reginald
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Philipps, John Wynford
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell

Reckitt, Harold James
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Russell, T. W.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Channing and Mr.
Warner.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
Ballour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
Banbury, Frederick George

Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bignold, Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Bull, William James
Burke, E. Haviland
Butcher, John George
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer

Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Capt. Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph

Dickson, Charles Scott
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Doxford, Sir William Theodore
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
 Ffrench, Peter
 Field, William
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W
 Garfit, William
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
 Gordon, Maj Evans. (Tr'ml'ts
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby- (Salop
 Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir EW (B'ry SEDm'nds
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
 Greene, W. Raymond- (Camba.
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Mid'x
 Hamilton, Marq of L'nd'nderry
 Hammond, John
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hobbouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
 Howard, Jno. (Kent, F'versharn
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop

Keswick, William
 Laubton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
 Lowe, Francis William
 Loyd, Archie Kirkman
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
 London, W.
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt Hn W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacIver, David (Liverpool)
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
 M'Kean, John
 M'Killop, James (Stirlingshire
 M'Killop, W. (Sligo, North)
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamst'w
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'tsh.
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt Hn A Graham (Bute
 Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
 Nannetti, Joseph P.
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, Kendal (Tipp'r'ry, Mid
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
 O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Pemberton, John S. G.
 Penn, John
 Percy, Earl
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power Patrick Joseph
 Pretyman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roche, John
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
 Seely, Maj J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
 Smith, HC (North'mb. Tyneside
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stroyan, John
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tully, Jasper
 Valencia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne-
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOMS—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

It being Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

EDUCATION ACT, 1901 (RENEWAL) BILL.

Considered in Committee, and reported,

without Amendment; Bill read the third time, and passed.

MEAT MARKING (IRELAND) BILL.

Order [17th June], That the Meat Marking (Ireland) Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

Adjourned at five minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 23rd July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

ROSSENDALE VALLEY TRAMWAYS BILL [Lords]

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6) BILL.

Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to.

ABERDEEN SUBURBAN TRAMWAYS ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [Lords].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWNSHIRE JOINT RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Read the third time, and passed.

SWANSEA CORPORATION BILL [Lords].

Reported, with Amendments, and an amended Title; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP N).

Mr. Heywood Johnstone reported from the Committee on Group N of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties concerned in the Gas and Water Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords] [Syston and Thurmaston Gas Order], they had adjourned till Tuesday, 29th July, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

BANKRUPTCY LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition of the Scottish Trade Protection Society, against; to lie upon the Table.

COUNTY COURTS JURISDICTION EXTENSION BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Scottish Trade Protection Society, and Kirkcaldy; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: From Failsworth; Manchester; Thornaby-on-Tees; Wood Green; Pendleton; Salford; and Weaste and Seedley; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against alteration of Clause 8: From Stratton and Birmingham; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From West Riding of Yorkshire; Arlechwedd; France Lynch; Bussage; Blackburn (three); and Cheltenham; to lie upon the Table.

ICE CREAM SHOPS (SCOTLAND) (No. 2) BILL.

Petition from Kirkcaldy, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Grimsby, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRAINING COLLEGES (IRELAND).

Return [presented 22nd July] to be printed. [No. 288.]

MORAY FIRTH FOREIGN TRAWLERS.

Return [presented 21st April] to be printed. [No. 289.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (HOME WORK) (MAKING OF CHAINS, ANCHORS, CART GEAR, LOCKS, LATCHES, AND KEYS).

Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying Sections 107 and 108 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of chains, anchors, cart gear, locks, latches, and keys is carried on [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS
(PARTICULARS OF PIECE WORK
WAGES) (LOCKS, LATCHES, AND
KEYS).**

Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of locks, latches, and keys is carried on [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS
(PARTICULARS OF PIECE WORK
WAGES) (CHAINS, ANCHORS, AND
CART GEAR).**

Copy presented, of Order, dated 14th July, 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying, with modifications, the provisions of Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of chains, anchors, and cart gear is carried on [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE.

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Comparative Statistics of Population, Industry, and Commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading Foreign Countries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD (IRE-
LAND).**

Copy presented, of Eleventh Report of the Board, being for the year ending 31st March, 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Sixty-eighth Report of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, being for the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th July; Mr. Harrington]; to lie upon the Table.

**LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (ENG-
LAND).**

Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation Returns for 1900-1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 290.]

**WELSH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION
(SCHEMES).**

Return ordered, "showing the schemes which have received the sanction of the Department, under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889, and the composition of (a) the County Governing Bodies and (b) the County School Committees in each County or County Borough in Wales."—(Mr. Kenyon.)

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.**

**Military Maps of Salisbury Plain—
Alleged Imperfections.**

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the maps now issued for manoeuvre purposes by the War Office of War Department land on Salisbury Plain do not show the railways from Stert to Westbury opened two years ago, or from Amesbury to the South Western main line; and whether he will have these maps brought up to date.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
The hon. Member is evidently labouring under a misapprehension. The half-inch to a mile manoeuvre map of the Salisbury Plain district shows both the railways mentioned.

Training Camps for Sandhurst Cadets.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the cadets at Sandhurst are in future to be sent into a training camp, similar to that recently adopted for the Woolwich cadets.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.)
I am not prepared to give any decision on this matter at present until we have the experience of the encampment of the Woolwich cadets.

India—Dredging of the Ganges.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that several of the leading shipowners in Liverpool, and others who are engaged in the shipping trade with Calcutta, state that owing to the mudbanks in the river they will be unable to maintain the trade with

Calcutta unless the river is dredged ; and will he consider the expediency of representing to the Calcutta Port Commissioners the necessity for dredging operations between Calcutta and Saugor.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I am not aware of the statements quoted in the Question ; but I am aware that last year, when the Committee inquired into the working of the Calcutta Port Trust, it was stated in evidence before them that the removal of the bars by dredging the river would cost a crore of rupees, and that no case existed for such an outlay, which, if incurred, would greatly increase the already heavy charges of the port.

Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway—Lighting of Carriages.

MR. WEIR : To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the carriages of the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway are still unprovided with artificial light, with the result that passengers have to travel through the jungle in darkness for hours ; and, will he, in the circumstances, consider the expediency of making representations on the subject to the controlling authority in India.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The hon. Member has already been informed, in reply to his Question of the 27th May, that the matter is one as to which any complaints should be addressed to the local authorities.

Khairpur Rupee Coinage.

MR. WEIR : To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has yet received from the Government of India a report in regard to the statement that the Khairpur State's rupee coinage is no longer to be accepted by the Treasury in payment of either land rent, fines, taxes, stamps, or otherwise ; and, seeing that this refusal has caused a depreciation of six annas per rupee, will he state whether the Government of India have taken, or propose to take, any action with a view to relieve the people of Khairpur of this loss.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I understand that a scheme for the conversion of the local currency

of Khairpur is being matured, and that, pending its introduction, the Mir has, on the advice of the Government of India, cancelled his previous orders, and is now willing to receive Chalan rupees for State dues. Until the details of the scheme are before me, I cannot say what loss or depreciation has occurred.

Medical Examination of Passengers leaving Calcutta.

MR. WEIR : To ask the Secretary of State for India whether any arrangements have yet been made for the punctual attendance of the medical officer for the examination of passengers leaving Calcutta by morning sailings of outward bound steamers ; and can he state whether the shed in which passengers are examined has yet been put in a state of repair, and the practice of medical examination in a public thoroughfare discontinued.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I have no information about these matters. They are such as are dealt with by the local authorities without being reported to the Secretary of State. Any complaints on the subject should be addressed to these authorities.

Mekran and Perso-Baluch Operations—Medals.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central) : To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, having regard to the services rendered in Mekran and on the Perso-Baluch frontier by the mixed force of troops under Major Tighe, who acted as escort to Major Showers, the political agent, from January to April, 1902, and did some fighting, particularly at the capture of Nodiz Fort, regard will be had in the rewards to be distributed to the claim of the native troops in the expedition to have the frontier medal awarded them, as has been done for the men engaged in the Mahsud blockade ; and whether the Indian Government will at the same time reconsider their decision as to the grant of the medal to the troops engaged in Mekran in 1898.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The question of the grant of a medal for the operations in Mekran in 1898 has been very carefully considered

on two separate occasions, and decided in the negative. I do not see any grounds for re-opening the question. No recommendation has yet been forwarded for my consideration by the Government of India regarding the grant of a medal for the operations in Mekran and on the Perso-Baluch frontier from January to April, 1902.

Island of Lewis Lights.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate whether the Congested Districts Board have yet decided on a site for another light on the coast of the Island of Lewis, in place of the light sanctioned for Tong; and, if not, will he state the cause of the delay.

(Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.) No decision has yet been reached, no application having so far been made to the Board from any other locality.

Island of Lewis Roads.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state what progress has been made in the construction of the roads between Cromore and Gravir, Island of Lewis, for which the Congested Districts Board made a grant of £2,700 in June of last year.

(Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.) I understand that no progress in the construction of these roads has yet been made by the County Road Board.

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Provisional Order Bill.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): To ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that the application made under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, in April last for an Order, under the title of the Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Provisional Order, is, under The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, proposed to be proceeded with as a private Bill, and that, owing to want of time, it is not possible to proceed with the Bill this session; and whether, in these circumstances, he will arrange that such amendments shall be made in the Standing Orders as will provide that the proceedings taken hitherto under The

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, and the Standing Orders this session shall be available for the prosecution of such Bill if introduced into Parliament next session.

(Answered by Mr. Graham Murray.) I understand that the necessary amendments in Standing Orders will be moved in due course.

Sheep Worrying Bill.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he still hopes to introduce the Bill dealing with sheep-worrying before the end of the session.

(Answered by Mr. Hanbury.) Yes.

Customs Statistical Office—Assistant Clerks' Leave.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, if, in consideration of the amount of overtime duty performed in connection with the increase of work occasioned by the imposition of new revenue duties and the preparation of the Annual Statement of Trade, and in view of the fact that the assistant clerks in the majority of Government offices receive more than fourteen days annual leave, he will consider the possibility of granting an increase of annual leave given to the assistant clerks in the Customs Statistical Office.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.) I think that this Question is based on some misapprehension of the facts. The new revenue duties imposed this year have not involved any additional overtime attendance, though extra attendance has been given by the staff, as usual, for the preparation of the periodical Trade Returns, and is paid for at the customary rates. As regards the general question of the annual leave of assistant clerks, this has been fixed at a maximum of fourteen working days, exclusive of Bank Holidays and the King's Birthday, for the Treasury and subordinate Departments. There is no general Order in Council regulating their leave, but, in the opinion of the Treasury, it would be highly desirable that other Departments of Government should adopt this scale.

Suicide of a Board of Education Clerk.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the case of William Heylin, a Senior Assistant Clerk in the Board of Education (Whitehall), who committed suicide; and whether he can state what was his salary after twenty-five years service.

(Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

The Treasury have no information regarding this case. Any inquiries relating to it should be addressed to the Board of Education.

Switzerland—Arrest of two English Ladies.

MR. J. H. WHITLEY (Halifax): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been called to the arrest and imprisonment of two English ladies in Switzerland; if he has caused inquiry to be made into the circumstances; and if he will seek from the Swiss Government compensation to the ladies for the treatment they have suffered.

(Answered by Viscount Cranborne.) The attention of His Majesty's Government has already been drawn to this case, and the Consul at Lausanne has been desired to furnish a full report. Only a brief statement of the facts has as yet been received, from which it would appear that the two English ladies met with very arbitrary treatment. It is desirable to await the fuller report called for before bringing the matter officially to the notice of the Swiss Government.

Public Elementary Schools Statistics.

MR. CHARLES MORLEY (Brecknock): To ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he will state the number of boys and the number of girls educated in public elementary schools, and will he state why these figures, which appeared in Table 8 of the Statistics of Public Elementary Schools published in previous years, have been omitted from the new volume of statistics [Cd. 1139] recently published.

(Answered by Sir John Gorst.) The number of boys in actual average attendance amounted, according to the last

Returns, to 2,430,570, and that of girls to 2,305,013. The Table to which the hon. Member refers gave the number of boys and girls in the different standards. It could not be continued in the volume recently published, as the classification by standards had ceased during the year to which these statistics relate.

Gibraltar—French Naval Station at Mers-el-Kebir.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can inform the House whether the French Government have a Naval station called Mers-el-Kebir, situated near Gibraltar; if so, will he state its exact locality and the distance from Gibraltar, whether it is fortified, a torpedo base, or only a signal station.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) Mers-el-Kebir is an auxiliary to the French Naval Station of Oran, and there is at present a small torpedo boat station there. It lies about 6,000 yards N.W. by W. of Oran, and 228 miles from Gibraltar. It is fortified.

Licensing Bill—Brewster Sessions.

SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in the event of the Licensing Bill becoming law before the adjournment of Parliament, it is intended that brewster sessions should be held during the autumn as usual, or whether they are to be held in February, as provided for in the Bill.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Ritchie.) It is provided in Clause 13 of the Bill, which postpones brewster sessions till next February, that that enactment shall come into operation on the passing of the Act. I do not doubt that the Bill will become law in time to save the necessity of holding the sessions this autumn.

Ireland—Criminal Law and Procedure Act—Statistics of Prosecutions.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of persons prosecuted in Ireland under the provisions of the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act during the twelve months ending 1st July.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The number of persons proceeded against under the Act in the period mentioned was 134.

Under-Age Enlistment.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that John Naughton, of Athlone, was accepted for enlistment in the 8th Hussars early this year; and whether, seeing that the Colonel of the regiment has been supplied with a certificate showing that Naughton is still under eighteen years of age, he will order this man's discharge.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) This matter rests with the general officer commanding, to whom the hon. Member should address any communications he may like to make.

South Africa—Return of Dr. Leyds and other Afrikanders.

MR. NEWDIGATE (Warwickshire, Nuneaton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information to the effect that Dr. Leyds is returning to South Africa in the ss. "Bavarian"; and whether steps will be taken to prevent persons, other than Afrikanders by birth, who have taken an active part, by military service or in any other way, against Great Britain during the recent war from entering British possessions in South Africa.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) (1) Dr. Leyds has not returned to South Africa on the "Bavarian." (2) Such persons are not being allowed to return.

Civil Servants of the late South African Republics.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the position of the Civil Servants of the late South African Republics, some of whom held office for years prior to the outbreak of the war, and were eligible for pensions under the laws of the Republics; and whether the cases of such Civil Servants will be considered by the Government at Home, or by the Governments of the new Colonies,

with a view of continuing to these persons under the new *régime* their rights to service or pension as under the laws of the late Republics.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.*) The rights to service or pension of servants of the late Governments cannot be recognised. A certain number have, however, been re-employed and some pensions have been granted. Each case will be dealt with on its merits.

Coronation Bank Holidays.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is proposed to declare 9th August a Bank Holiday.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can say if Saturday, 9th August, will be declared a Bank Holiday.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The result of such inquiries as the Government have been able to make into this matter tends to show that the balance of public opinion is in the direction of turning the customary half-holiday of Saturday into a Bank Holiday on the occasion of the Coronation.

(2.15.) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Railway Brakes.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Derby, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that since the appeals of the railway companies against certain of the Rules issued by the Board of Trade under The Prevention of Accidents Act, 1900, were heard before the Railway and Canal Commissioners on 25th June last, the railway companies have for the first time lodged another appeal against Rule 1, to the effect that instead of brake levers which may be operated from either side, they may be allowed to adopt brakes of the single-lever class, which can only be operated from one side; and will the Board of Trade take steps to uphold their Rule before the Railway and Canal Commissioners Court.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am not aware that any such appeal has been lodged. The Solicitor to the Board has been instructed to take steps to uphold the Rule before the Court of the Railway and Canal Commission.

CAPTAIN NORTON: On behalf of the hon. Member for Derby, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that trials of brakes that can be applied and released without the necessity of the men having to cross over, under, or round a waggon for the purpose of carrying out the Rule laid down by the Board of Trade under The Railways (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900, have been, or are being, carried out; and whether he will take steps to ensure that the Board of Trade are properly represented by experts and practical men at those trials, and that railway servants are afforded an opportunity of being represented.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: Yes, Sir. I understand that trials of either-side brakes are being conducted by a Committee appointed by the Railway Clearing House. I do not at present think it necessary to take the steps suggested by the hon. Member, but I may say that the Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways is keeping in touch with what is being done.

Inspectors of Secondary Schools.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, how many of His Majesty's Inspectors are at present engaged in inspecting secondary schools; how many of these are graduates of a British university; how many have had three years experience as teachers in secondary schools; and will he give an assurance that in the future it shall be a necessary qualification for anyone who seeks an appointment on the Inspectorate Staff that he must be registered in Column B of the Official Register of Teachers.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University):

All His Majesty's Inspectors inspect secondary schools of some kind. Most of them are graduates, and most have had experience as teachers in secondary schools. But the Board of Education could not ascertain the particulars asked for in the Question without personal inquiry, which would be invidious. As the Official Register of Teachers is not yet in existence, the Board of Education cannot give the pledge asked for in the last part of the Question.

Public Prosecutor—Alleged Company Frauds.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney General whether he proposes to instruct the Director of Public Prosecutions to take action in the cases of the London and Globe Finance Corporation, Limited, the Standard Exploration Company, Limited, and the British America Corporation, Limited, against which companies various frauds have been proved.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The answer is in the negative.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act—Dublin Schemes.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that there is a great delay in dealing with applications for loans under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, especially from Dublin; whether this delay is attributable to the want of active co-operation on the part of the Treasury; and whether he will take such steps as will enable these applications to be dealt with more quickly by that Department.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): There is no delay on the part of the Local Government Board in dealing with applications for loans under this Act. On the 11th inst. an application for a loan was received from the Dublin Corporation, which was sanctioned five days later. I am authorised by my hon. friend the Financial Secretary to say that no complaint of delay on the part of the Treasury has reached him, but if the hon. Member will communicate to

him particulars of any case in which avoidable delay is alleged to have occurred, my hon. friend will have the matter investigated.

Marine Works (Ireland) Bill.

COLONEL NOLAN (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the Marine Works Bill will permit of money being advanced under it for important works on the larger Irish lakes; and, if not, will the Government introduce an Amendment to that effect; if his attention has been drawn to the resolution of the Tuam District Board, pressing the question of Government assistance to a bridge between Knockferry and Clydagh, spanning Lough Corrib at its narrowest part; and if such a bridge has long been advocated as essential to the development of the county of Galway; and will he take steps to expedite the carrying out of this proposal.

MR. WYNDHAM: I do not think an Amendment of the character suggested would be germane to the Bill.

United Irish League and the Cork Court House.

MR. MOORE (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the fact that a meeting of a branch of the United Irish League took possession of the Court House at Cork, on Friday 18th, in the control of His Majesty's High Sheriff, and proceeded to hold a meeting there and to deliver speeches; and will he state what action will be taken in respect of such conduct, and also in respect of such speeches.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir, my attention has been called to this matter. It is the undoubted duty of a High Sheriff to see that a court house in his custody is only used by the County Council for the execution of their duties. In this case the County Council, having met at noon, converted itself at 1.30 into a political meeting—a proceeding as disingenuous as it was discreditable to a public body. On the previous evening the High Sheriff despatched a telegram to the Under Secretary, as representing

the Executive Government, in which he stated that a meeting of the United Irish League was announced for the next day in the County Council Chamber, and asking for instructions. The telegram did not reach Dublin Castle until five minutes to eight. It revealed an imperfect appreciation of the duties and responsibilities of a Sheriff, but I ought in fairness to add that the manœuvre to which the County Council descended was calculated to confuse the issue. This statement of the position will, I hope, convince the hon. Member that the remainder of his Question cannot be dealt with by way of question and answer.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford):

As I was present at the meeting, and was cognisant of all the facts which led up to it, may I be allowed to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not the fact that this convention of delegates from all parts of the county of Cork was publicly announced in all the newspapers four or five days in advance, to be held in the County Council Chamber on that date; and whether it is not the fact that the County Council did not resolve itself into a political meeting at all, but that, on the contrary, the Council Chamber was occupied by a body of several hundred delegates, who appointed a chairman and secretary in the ordinary way?

MR. WYNDHAM: My information is of an opposite character. My information is that it was put about that this meeting was to be held in the Assembly Rooms; and I may note that the *Freeman's Journal*, which, I believe, more or less accurately represents the views of the hon. and learned Gentleman, in its report the next day described this very manœuvre with eulogy, and attributed it to the chairman, who was described as an astute campaigner.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman permit me to send him copies of newspapers published in Dublin and Cork four or five days in advance of the meeting, stating that the meeting would be held in the County Council Chamber?

MR. WYNDHAM: Of course I will accept any such communication from the hon. and learned Member. But assuming, as I now do, that that is the case, I am the more at a loss to understand the perplexity of the Sheriff.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if the local police authority in Cork refused to supply the Sheriff of that county with the requisite force for the discharge of his duty in controlling the court-house; and whether he will state what action he proposes to take.

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir.

Disturbance at Scarva, Antrim.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the 14th July the Nationalists in the neighbourhood of Scarva prevented the passage of the sick ambulance, conveying, or proceeding for the conveyance of, patients to the infirmary at Banbridge; and whether instructions will be given to the authorities to secure free passage along this road in the future.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): At the same time may I ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that an epidemic of typhoid fever prevails at Laurelvale, Tandragee; that on 14th July an ambulance van, conveying typhoid patients to the Banbridge Union Hospital, was stopped on the highway by a mob, headed by two men named Hugh Campbell and Michael Leary, who obliged the driver to make a detour of three miles in order to reach the hospital with the patients; and, seeing that it has been the custom of the Nationalists for years to close the leading road between Scarva and Banbridge on the occasion of what is known as the sham fight at Scarva, whether it is intended to prosecute these men, and to take steps to prevent a recurrence of such outrages in that district.

MR. WYNDHAM: Proceedings are being taken against the two persons who stopped an ambulance on the highway. That being so, it would not be proper for me to discuss any of the circumstances of the case.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down Co., S.): Is it not the fact that this ambulance was several times allowed to pass along the road on the day in question? Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the stopping it has been publicly repudiated by the leading residents of the district?

MR. WYNDHAM: Obviously it would not be proper for me to discuss suggestions of that kind, and to refuse to discuss other suggestions bearing on the case.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the assault upon Mr. Alexander Moore by Roman Catholics on the public road at Scarva, on the 14th July, when his bicycle was smashed, and he was forced to go round by another road; and whether any steps have been taken to arrest the persons who were engaged in this assault.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, Sir. Proceedings are being taken against Mr. Moore's assailants.

Official Assignees in Bankruptcy—Mr. Knox MacEntire.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the official assignees in 1893, 1896, and in 1899 tried unsuccessfully to get the terms of Order No. 255 of the Bankruptcy Rules, which provides that no official assignee shall, directly or indirectly, carry on any trade or business, or hold, or be engaged in, any office or employment other than his said office and employment as official assignee, altered; and, seeing that one of the official assignees, Mr. Alexander Knox MacEntire, has been permitted to give evidence as an expert in handwriting under the Criminal Law and Procedure (Ireland) Act and on other occasions, will he state by what authority this official was allowed such employment.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The official assignees, I believe, sought to have the Rule mentioned altered, so as to enable them to act as

official liquidators in the winding-up of companies if appointed for that purpose by a Chancery Judge, with the consent of the Judge for the Court of Bankruptcy. Mr. McEntire appeared to give evidence on the question of handwriting in two prosecutions by the permission of the Judge for the Court of Bankruptcy, who apparently considered that Rule 255 did not apply in this case.

Irish National Board of Education.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland why the seat at the National Board of Education, vacated by Archbishop Walsh more than twelve months ago, has not been filled.

MR. WYNDHAM: The reasons were explained by me when replying, on the 21st March, to a similar question of the hon. Member for West Kerry.† The position has not since changed.

Rathkeale Fairs.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a complaint has been made against the Great Southern and Western Railway Company for not supplying sufficient railway accommodation to buyers of cattle at Rathkeale Fair on Thursday, the 17th July; and, in view of the importance of the Rathkeale cattle fairs, will he direct the Department of Agriculture to inquire into the matter with a view of obliging the company to supply more accommodation in future.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Department will inquire into the matter.

Imperial Taxation and Expenditure in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state the amount of Imperial taxation levied in Ireland for the year 1901; and how much of it was expended in that country, and upon what departments.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.): The revenue collected in Ireland in the Financial Year 1901-2, and the

expenditure on Irish services in the same period, are shown in the Return recently presented. (House of Commons Paper, No. 256.)

Royal Hibernian Academy.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Committee to whom it is proposed to refer the Public Offices (Dublin) Bill will have power to consider the claims of the Royal Hibernian Academy to secure a new site adjacent to the existing art buildings in Dublin, seeing that the claims of the Royal Hibernian Academy in this respect are now under consideration by the Government.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): This is perhaps hardly a question for me, but I should say that such a matter would be entirely outside the scope of the Bill.

Irish Lights Board.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether it is a fact that the Irish Lights Board in their new rules contemplate the employment of handy men to do tradesmen's work; and whether he is aware that a notice has been issued stating that lightkeepers doing regular skilled artisans' work will be allowed sixpence per hour of actual work, provided that they have obtained a written order from the engineer to do the work; that other keepers assisting as helpers will be allowed fourpence per hour when such help is really necessary; and will he say whether such an order is in accordance with the Fair Wages Resolution of this House.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I hear from the Commissioners of Irish Lights that the statement in the hon. Member's Question is correct. They inform me that it is intended to employ lightkeepers to do small jobs in their own time, where travelling expenses incurred by sending tradesmen would be out of proportion to the actual value of the work to be done. It does not seem to me that the Fair Wages Resolution of this House was intended to apply to an arrangement of this description.

† See (4) *Debates*, cv., 723.

MR. NANNETTI: Is it intended to extend this system to shore jobs?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Trusts and Bounties—International Conference.

MR. FIELD: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Imperial Russian Government has invited an International Conference to consider the means which should be taken to protect International commerce against artificial depression by means of export bounties, the control of production and output, gambling in futures in food stuffs, silver, and various products; whether he has any official information to show that the International Conference intends to consider the proceedings adopted by trusts and private undertakings which tend to influence artificially the International market; and whether any steps have been taken by the British Government to assist at this Conference.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (MR. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In connection with the Brussels Sugar Conference, the Russian Government has suggested a fresh International Conference to consider some of the points mentioned by the hon. Gentleman. The reply to be made by His Majesty's Government to this invitation is under consideration.

Food and Drugs Acts Amendment Bill.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to proceed with the Committee stage of the Food and Drugs Acts Amendment Bill before the Adjournment; and, if so, will he state upon what day the Bill will be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope to be able to take this Bill before the Adjournment, but I cannot give an absolute pledge.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman be able to fix a day next Monday? I am sure he will recognise the inconvenience to hon.

Members on both sides, who are interested in this Bill, of not knowing when the Bill may come on.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will endeavour to give sufficient notice of the day.

Education Grant.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to take the Committee stage of the Resolution for the new grant-in-aid for education.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it can be taken before the Adjournment.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES) (IRELAND) BILL.

Lords' Amendments to be considered forthwith; considered, and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

[19TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-03.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

*(2.30.) MR. JOHN REDMOND: I desire, Sir, to move the reduction of the salary of the Chief Secretary, which stands in my name on the Notice Paper, and to found upon this Motion a condemnation of the entire system of Irish administration carried on by the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman has now been about two years in Dublin Castle, and I think no Englishman ever

came over to govern Ireland on behalf of this Parliament under more favourable circumstances and with larger opportunities. First of all, he found Ireland in a state of profound peace. By his statements made in this House, agrarian crime was lower than at any period in the past history of Ireland of which we have a record, and so far as ordinary crime is concerned—also on his own admission—it had almost disappeared from the country. By comparison with any part of the so-called United Kingdom, or any other country in Europe, Ireland was in a state of absolute crimelessness; the seasons had been fairly good, and he himself had certain affiliations which disposed certain people to look on his administration with some degree of sympathy, and to expect from him some measure of sympathy with Irish aspirations. He represented a Government of enormous and unparalleled power—as many of us were aware he was possessed of considerable knowledge of Ireland, and, as everybody knew, he was a man of great ability. Now, he has had a fair trial; he has had two years experience in his effort to govern Ireland; therefore ample time has elapsed to enable any man to form a fair estimate of his success. Adequate time has been allowed for any man to answer this question impartially: What has the right hon. Gentleman done? What has he tried to do for the benefit of the Irish people, to govern whom he was sent to our country? What has he done? What has he tried to do to conciliate Ireland to the Empire, in whose interest he was sent to govern the Irish people? If such a man, under conditions such as these, has absolutely failed in his efforts to govern Ireland, has done absolutely nothing for Ireland, absolutely nothing for the Empire, and if the Irish problem today is more pressing and more perplexing to English statesmanship, and more dangerous to the Empire, than it has been in the immediate past, surely thoughtful men must be inclined to admit our plea when we say that the government of Ireland by England, even when carried on through the medium of the ablest Englishman, and under the most favourable conditions, is an absolute impossibility. Now, Sir, I say that of all Irish administrations of which I, at any rate, have had any knowledge for the last quarter of a century in Ireland, that of the right hon. Gentleman has been the

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most colossal failure. So far from benefiting Ireland, it has injured Ireland; so far from conciliating Ireland to the Empire, it has exasperated and embittered the relations between the two countries. When the right hon. Gentleman went to Dublin Castle he found Ireland in a state of profound peace. Although—thank God!—he has not succeeded in bringing about a recrudescence of crime in the country, still he has to face a country profoundly stirred and seething with disappointment, discontent, and the spirit of revolt. Sir, when he went to Dublin Castle he found the ordinary law in operation. That ordinary law had been in operation in Ireland for eight years, and under its operation peace had spread through the country and crime had disappeared. After two years of the rule of the right hon. Gentleman, the ordinary law, which exists in every part of the United Kingdom, is suspended in Ireland; over a large area of the country the constitution is abrogated, trial by jury is abolished, and tribunals—corrupt, servile, and degraded—consisting of the paid servants of the right hon. Gentleman himself, and removable from office at the right hon. Gentleman's pleasure, are sent up and down through the country to convict all the local leaders of the people on vague and meaningless charges of conspiracy and unlawful assembly. And, at the time when this kind of thing is going on on the one hand, the right hon. Gentleman's paid and trusted police officials, who have been detected in the horrible crime of sending innocent men to penal servitude for brutal offences committed by themselves, have been some of them allowed to escape from justice altogether, and others of them have been actually rewarded by what the right hon. Gentleman the other day in this place called compassionate allowances, and others of them still at this moment are retained in the police force and in the pay of the Crown.

When the right hon. Gentleman came to Ireland two years ago, the people were full of a vague hope of some remedial legislation especially dealing with the land question. The right hon. Gentleman himself is directly responsible for that feeling, because he has over and over again declared in this House, and outside of this House, that land legislation for

Ireland was an immediate necessity. To-day he tells the Irish people that such legislation is impossible unless, forsooth, the Irish members of this House abrogate their functions and are willing to accept as uncontroversial, and allowed to pass practically without discussion, the halting and inconclusive Land Bill which he has placed on the Table of the House. One word as to this last point before I go to the others. What has been the record of the right hon. Gentleman with reference to this land question? No Nationalist, no land reformer in Ireland, ever made a stronger case for immediate and sweeping legislation on this land question than the right hon. Gentleman did in his speech recently in this House. He repeatedly stated that a Land Bill, which would effectually remedy the evils of the present defective system, was an immediate necessity, and in introducing the Land Bill before Parliament he made an overwhelming case, a case which he did not present to us but to some of his impatient followers, who apparently were reluctant that even an hour should be given to this question for the complete and immediate remedy of the evils of the land system. He spoke of the complete breakdown of the rent-fixing portion of the present system; he pointed out how, in order to keep the country in a perpetual lawsuit, that they were paying £140,000 a year to the Land Commission, and £1,350,000 a year for a police force which, he admitted, was necessitated by the existence of the present land system, and he said—

“In spite of these precautions, and notwithstanding the passage of forty Land Acts, no one can reasonably be expected to be satisfied with the present state and the future prospects of agriculture in Ireland. We cannot leave it alone.”

He spoke of the delay of justice in this case as being a denial of justice, and he said further—

“If we look to the rent fixing, we find the number of appeals becoming yearly greater than the number disposed of in any one year, and if we look to the state-aided purchases we see them shrinking before our eyes.”

Therefore, he made out a complete case for a radical remedy being applied to the present system of land tenure. But what steps of a genuine nature has he taken at all to endeavour to obtain adequate time, even for the consideration

of this question? None whatever. He has dangled before the eyes of the Irish people a phantom Land Bill, which he knew perfectly well he could not obtain adequate time for the discussion of. The introduction of that Land Bill was a sham. I stated repeatedly before he introduced it that he knew it would be impossible to obtain time in this overburdened Imperial Parliament, which insists not only on governing the portions of the United Kingdom, but on governing the Empire, that he would find it impossible to obtain adequate time for its discussion, and he then came forward and made the extraordinary and unparalleled suggestion that this Bill—having dropped out a couple of Clauses when he found feeling in Ulster was very strong against him, a couple of Clauses which, I may remind the House, he declared when he introduced the Bill were a vital portion of the Bill, and which we would have to swallow or get none—he then said that, forsooth, this Bill, should be sent upstairs to a Committee as a non-controversial measure. Now, I stated outside the House, and I repeat it here, that in my opinion a more impudent and cynical suggestion was never made. Non-controversial! Everybody who has looked at this Land Bill knows that it is in the main a landlord's Bill, that at the best it will be a miserable makeshift, and what I have to say to the right hon. Gentleman in reference to his Bill is this—he may keep his Bill. In the contest which is going on, and is rapidly coming to a head between the tenants and the landlords in Ireland, the tenants can afford to wait better than the landlord, and we have evidence of that in the frantic appeals which are being made by the landlords for the passage of this Bill. It is quite clear the right hon. Gentleman has yet to learn a lesson from the tenantry of Ireland. Up to the present, during his two years tenure of office, he has treated the Irish National movement with ill-disguised contempt, and he has treated the scheme of compulsory practice with derision. I venture respectfully to make a prophecy here, that before this day next year his contempt for the National movement, for its strength and overwhelming power, will not be quite so great, and that his respect for the principle of compulsory

purchase will be very much more than it is today. Meanwhile, we can afford to allow the proceedings of the Government and the right hon. Gentleman on this Land Bill to stand as the latest and the strongest argument for Home Rule—an example of a vital grievance affecting the lives and fortunes of a whole nation—and of a Government with a majority of 150 yet unable to deal with it.

Let me for a moment turn to the administration of the Coercion Act by the right hon. Gentleman. I will not here repeat the arguments which I used the last time we discussed this matter, and when, I think, I was certainly able to make a strong case against the right hon. Gentleman, that without any provocation he had revived the provisions of this odious Act. I will not go into the question of whether he was justified in proclaiming these counties or not. I ask the House to consider how he has administered the Act. How many has he prosecuted? Mr. Lowther, I am quite sure that the House is in absolute ignorance of the fact that since January—I have not the full figures before me—the right hon. Gentleman has imprisoned, has succeeded in convicting and imprisoning, between fifty and sixty men. If anybody who knows Ireland will take the list of these men, he will see that they are the local and trusted leaders of the people in every part of the country. Sir, these men have been imprisoned on charges of conspiracy and charges of unlawful assembly, charges which, of course, could not be proved against any man in this country, unless the prosecution was prepared to abide by the arbitrament of a freely chosen jury. These men have been convicted by magistrates whom I rightly described a moment ago as paid servants of the prosecutor, the paid servants of the right hon. Gentleman, and removable at a moment's notice, without any reason given, from their office. If nothing else has come out of the proceedings of the Committee over which the Prime Minister presides, which is dealing with the case of my hon. friend the Member for North Leitrim, at any rate, this good has come from it, that it has shown in the most glaring colours how this system has worked. Sir, the system of the tribunals

is ludicrous. What happens? The right hon. Gentleman makes up his mind to prosecute some man for a speech which does not fit in with his views of how public controversy should be carried on, and he tells his Under Secretary, Sir David Harrell, to institute a prosecution, and Sir David Harrell sends a note to his son who is one of these removable magistrates, and he tells his son to go down and give an impartial trial to the prisoner. With that amazing stupidity which characterises so many acts at Dublin Castle, there was produced before the Committee—why in Heaven, no one knows—a paper containing the letter written by Sir David Harrell to his son, telling him to go. Could anything be more ridiculous? My hon. friend the Member for North Leitrim did the proper thing when he appeared before that tribunal. I speak not of the precise words he used, but he was perfectly right in pouring contempt and ridicule on it; and I say that no man with any self-respect ought to plead before these tribunals. These tribunals are not Courts of Justice. Here we have a Government official on a Treasury Bench ordering a prosecution; his Under Secretary sends his own son down to try the prisoner, and that son is removable at the pleasure of the Chief Secretary without any reason given. These are not Courts of Justice, and I hope the Irish people will pour upon them absolute contempt with regard to any sentences that may be inflicted upon such prisoners, and regard them as an honour and not as a stigma; and if they do the right hon. Gentleman will find this last weapon in the Unionist armoury break in his hands.

These are the proceedings of the right hon. Gentleman towards the tenants' combination. But the tenants' is not the only combination in Ireland. Within the last two or three days there have been published some very remarkable documents in the Irish papers. The Unionist landlords cannot even trust their own officials, because the more private and confidential a document, and the more it is marked private and confidential, the more certainly it finds its way into our hands. Two private and

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confidential documents were published the other day from the landlords, and I do not intend to dwell at any length upon these documents, but I want to make one or two points. The first document is dated 7th April this year. I ask the House to note the date for a moment. It is a document to form a combination of landlords to be called the Land Trust, 1902, which calls for subscriptions of £100,000, in order to crush United Irish League and to provide a fund for such actions as those instituted by Lord De Freyne against myself and others. This document bears the signatures of Mr. Smith Barry and Lord Clonbrock. Mr. Smith Barry, according to the document, has subscribed £1,000, and Lord Clonbrock a large sum also. These gentlemen, on the 7th April, issued a declaration of war against the tenants' combination, and on the 14th of April, one week afterwards, the same two men—Mr. Smith Barry and Lord Clonbrock—as Privy Councillors, signed the proclamation from Dublin Castle proclaiming Ireland under the Coercion Act. That is to say, the tenants have got a combination to endeavour to get their rights; they meet with persecution at the hands of these degraded and servile tribunals of the right hon. Gentleman in Ireland; they are harried and persecuted; their meetings are broken up; their leaders put in prison. The landlords form a combination, and within a week the two leaders of this landlords' combination are allowed in the name of the Government to issue a proclamation for suspending the ordinary law in Ireland and putting the Coercion Act into force. A greater scandal was never known. What is to be said for the unfortunate and well-disposed Unionist in this House, or out of it, who desires to conciliate the Irish people to government by this country? What can he do except hang his head for shame and close his mouth? How can any man justify such a system of Government? For my part, I am not afraid of the landlords' combination; one of these precious documents published the other day asked the shareholders of the Land Corporation, the latest of these combinations, to allow their interests to be merged in the new concern, and went on to point out that their interest in the shares in the old company amounted to a few pence. These combinations are not paying or successful

concerns. We have nothing to fear from them. I don't make any appeal or claim, because I know it will be useless, but I do make a protest that where there is a great trade contest going on between the tillers of the soil and the owners of the soil that it is a monstrous thing that the Government should throw in its weight on the landlords' side, and allow the leaders of the landlords' combination to wag the Government as they like, and allow Mr. Smith Barry and Lord Clonbrock to go into the Irish Office and force the Government to issue a proclamation suspending the ordinary law.

While these methods are being pursued against [the people's combinations, against the people in their legal and lawful and constitutional rights of public meeting and of open combination, what, I ask, is the conduct of the right hon. Gentleman with reference to his own trusted police officials when these men are detected in brutal, inhuman, and disgusting crime? The exposure in the Sheridan case is like a ray of light thrown upon a dark mass of corruption and villainy. If the right hon. Gentleman, when he made that brief and jaunty reply to the hon. Member for East Mayo, imagined that that was the end of the Sheridan case, he was greatly mistaken. This Sheridan case has got to be represented in and outside this House until some inkling of the facts penetrates into the minds of the people of this country. This man Sheridan was a policeman in Ireland, and for services rendered he was again and again rewarded, until finally he was promoted to be sergeant. He was transferred from time to time from one part of Ireland to another, and everywhere he went he was noted for his clever detection of brutal offences, especially the offence of the most brutal character, consisting of the mutilation of dumb animals. Wherever he went he was able to exercise his extraordinary talent. In districts where there were no such offences known before, shortly after he appeared on the scene they began to spring up, and he was always able to put his hand on the criminal. For this he was rewarded again and again, until he came to be regarded as a pillar of law and order and of the Unionist Government. He came also to be regarded so highly in the force

that the younger members of the Royal Irish Constabulary were, as the Chief Secretary has told the House, "dazzled" by his abilities. Suddenly, a trumped-up charge of a more or less trivial character—that of having posted up a threatening notice—which was brought against a poor tramp of the name of Ryan, was so unskillfully done—apparently a long course of impunity had induced him to act with less than his usual caution—that the prosecution had to dismiss the charge against Ryan, and were obliged to institute some sort of inquiry against Sheridan; and as the result of that inquiry Sheridan was dismissed. Now, the last time this subject was under discussion, the Attorney General, who muddled up the whole case in his reply, seemed to imagine that our case against the Government was that they did not prosecute Sheridan for the trumped-up charge against Ryan. Nothing of the kind. I think myself that they ought to have done that; but that was a comparatively trivial matter, and possibly the right hon. Gentleman exercised the best discretion he could. But that is not our real charge against the Government. I ask the Committee to understand that I am basing every statement I now make on the declarations of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary in this House, and standing at that box. After Sheridan had been dismissed, and after, I believe, in fact, I know, Sheridan was still in the country, a gentleman called Irwin, who, I think, was a district or county inspector—at any rate, an official of the police—sent to the Chief Secretary a report which the right hon. Gentleman told us was to the effect that suspicion was thrown upon the conviction of certain men for certain brutal offences in Ireland, in the trial of which the chief evidence was that of Sergeant Sheridan. These offences were arson and the mutilation of cattle. I want to know more precisely than has yet been given to us what was in that report of Irwin. It may be said that such reports are confidential, but in a case like Sheridan's, where infamous criminals were protected and rewarded, no such plea as official secrecy should prevail, and I call, therefore,

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for the production of Irwin's report, I want to see the date of that report and what is in it. I contend that the moment that that report was received by the Chief Secretary, Sheridan ought to have been arrested. What happened in this country only the day before yesterday? There was the case of a police sergeant who made a charge against a man of loitering with intent to commit a felony. The case was dismissed and the policeman was at once arrested and put on his trial. As a matter of fact, the evidence against the policeman broke down. I say that if this had been a case of an ordinary policeman in England in which the authorities received such a report as had been sent to the Chief Secretary about Sheridan, that policeman would have been instantly arrested and the Government would have done their best to get a conviction.

Sheridan was not arrested, but a private inquiry was instituted about his conduct. At that inquiry three accomplices—three accessories before or after the fact—three other policemen, accomplices in some degree of Sheridan, were examined. The Chief Secretary told us that the Government were unable to get the truth from these three accomplices except on the condition of giving them an indemnity, of giving them a promise that they would be protected. And the Chief Secretary exclaimed, "Am I to break my word that no injury would be done to them?" At the private inquiry, and by the help of these three accomplices, it was established that Sheridan, in his capacity as a police officer, had been concerned in crimes of mutilation of cattle and setting fire to property, in order to win prestige and reward, by hounding innocent men to gaol on perjured evidence. No one knows, or can know, how many cases of that kind have occurred. For years this man was engaged in detecting the perpetrators of these crimes, and no man living can tell how many innocent men may have been sent to the grave, to madness, and to ruin by the action of this policeman. But we do know that the inquiry established the fact that that was what happened in the case of four men. Beyond that we know nothing. What occurred in the case of these

four men? One of them died immediately after he left prison; and it is out of the power of any human being to give any compensation to him, or to give any real compensation to any of his poor family. He died with the stigma of crime still upon him. Another of these wretched, poor men actually pleaded guilty to the charge laid against him. The Chief Secretary told us the other night that the man who pleaded guilty was innocent. Can Englishmen realise the state of the administration of the law in a country where such a thing can happen? Here is a poor innocent peasant boy, suddenly accused of the most heinous crime any human being can conceive of. He protests his innocence to his legal advisers, who say to him, "Whether innocent or not, in God's name, plead guilty." And why? Because the tribunal that was to try him had been packed by the Attorney General, and because he knew, and his legal advisers—his solicitor and counsel—knew that he had no chance; that the policeman Sheridan's word would outweigh any evidence of innocence. And, in order to get a lighter sentence, he took the not very heroic course of telling a lie and saying he was guilty. The other two men refused to tell a lie. They said that no consideration of a lighter sentence would induce them to plead guilty of an offence of which they were innocent. Observe, ninety per cent. of the whole population of the district in which the trial took place are Catholics, and yet sixty Catholic jurors were challenged for entering the jury box. This peasant boy was tried by a jury entirely composed, not merely of Protestants, but of men notoriously known to belong to the political party bitterly opposed to Catholics, and the people of Sligo. Of course he was convicted, and equally of course the learned judge commended the verdict and said there was no doubt whatever in the case. That peasant boy served out his sentence, and when he came out of prison his first act was to go before a magistrate and swear an affidavit that he had been wrongly convicted. The right hon. Gentleman admitted, so far as manner was concerned, most handsomely that Dan McGoochan was innocent, and he gave

him £100 as compensation. I ask the Committee to bear that £100 in mind. Sheridan was never tried. He was allowed to escape from the country. I want a clear and specific answer to this question. "Why was he allowed to escape?" and I will go on repeating it inside this House, and outside it, until I get an answer. After the result of the private inquiry was known, and after it had been proved by the evidence of his accomplices that he had got poor innocent men sent to prison for offences they had never committed, but which Sheridan and his accomplices had committed, is it true that Sheridan was walking about free in Ireland and England for two months? During that period Sheridan had the impudence to come to the House and send up his card to me; and when I went out to see him he told me a story so plausible and so cleverly put together that it made me very suspicious, and I gave him a wide berth. After that the Chief Secretary knew that Sheridan was going about laughing at your law and daring you to prosecute him. If the Government had prosecuted him he knew that such a flood of light would have been thrown upon the whole system of administration of the law in Ireland as would have destroyed the blood-stained and disgraceful methods of governing Ireland. Sheridan has left the country; he was in America a few months ago, and I believe he is there yet. You can still try him if you like. The question was asked the other day of the Attorney General whether men accused of perjury and arson could not be extradited, and he said, "Yes, they could." Why is not Sheridan prosecuted?

Now I come to the answer which seemed to slip from the Attorney General somewhat inadvertently, and which, if true, raises a still more serious matter. I have not the exact words, but what he said was to the effect that the indemnity given to the three accomplices was of such a character that their evidence could not be used against Sheridan in a court of law. I should be delighted if the Chief Secretary was in a position to contradict that statement. Who has the right to give any such indemnity to accomplices? Informers and accomplices constantly appear in the witness-box in

criminal trials, and they necessarily, and in most cases very properly, get an indemnity—what for? In order to punish and convict the worst criminal of the lot. What practice can be quoted in the whole experience of this country in which the accomplices are given an indemnity to the effect that if they give evidence nothing will be done to them, nor will the evidence be used against that criminal. It is monstrous and absurd, and I want to know if any such indemnity was given—if so, who gave it; also its exact character, whether it will be produced, and what right any man, especially the man charged with the duty of maintaining law and order and of administering criminal justice in Ireland, has to condone felonies, and to protect and screen the perpetrators of inhuman and brutal offences of this kind.

Then what happened to the three accomplices? Two have left the force, but they were given compassionate allowances of £200. It is a crying shame! Here is this brave young peasant, Dan McGoochan, suffering all the torture and misery of a conviction for an offence of which he was innocent, and to compensate him and his family, and to give him if possible a new lease of life after his years of imprisonment, he is given £100. Yet the accomplice in the actual crime gets double the amount.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (MR. WYNDHAM, DOVER): Reid got £50, not £200.

* MR. JOHN REDMOND: Then if the particular accomplice in McGoochan's case did not get £200, apparently the other did.

MR. WYNDHAM: Not in the McGoochan case.

* MR. JOHN REDMOND: There were three accomplices, and I myself heard the right hon. Gentleman state the other day that one of them got a compassionate allowance of £200. Is that true or false? It is true. What are we to think of such an interruption as that of the right hon. Gentleman, the effect of which, if it had any effect at all, must be in the direction of inducing the Committee to believe I had

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made a false statement. The right hon. Gentleman says it was not an accomplice in the McGoochan case; then it was in the case of the other poor wretches, perhaps that of the man who died. But the third accomplice is still wearing His Majesty's uniform, is still in the police force, is still engaged, no doubt, on all appropriate occasions in harring disorderly and rebellious Nationalists, and presiding at celebrations of loyalty and good-will in Ireland. This is a serious matter, and I will not mince words in dealing with it. In my opinion—No, I will not say in my opinion at all—I charge the Government with having hushed up the affair, with being responsible for letting Sheridan escape from justice, with paying hush money to two accomplices, and with keeping the third man in the pay of the Crown, because they dare not face an inquiry into the system of corruption, perjury, and infamy which is carried on in the interests of Dublin Castle by paid officials of the right hon. Gentleman. A more shameful and infamous transaction was never heard of in the whole political history of this country.

I go a step further. Apparently the Chief Secretary himself is directly responsible for all this. The Attorney General the other night, when pressed as to why he did not order a prosecution of Sheridan with reference to the McGoochan and other cases, said the case had never come before him. What is the meaning of that? The Attorney General is the public prosecutor in Ireland, and is at the head of the administration of the law. Does he say that the Chief Secretary, when he received the report of the private inquiry, establishing beyond yea or nay the guilt of Sheridan, withheld that information from him? I accept the right hon. and learned Gentlemen's statement and am convinced the case was not put before him. But why was it withheld? Knowing what he did about the Ryan case, is it possible or credible that he never even asked an innocent question further about Sheridan, that without his knowledge this secret inquiry was held, and that he never heard of Sheridan's guilt until the matter was dragged into publicity by the hon. Member for East Mayo last session? At any rate, as far as we can judge from

his statement, and that of the Attorney General, the Chief Secretary is directly responsible for this. If so, how does he stand before the world? He prosecutes a poor, wretched peasant who may be guilty of some act of violence in defence of his little home; he imprisons his political opponent if he makes a speech displeasing to him; he suspends trial by jury in order to convict men as respectable and as honourable as himself; but he does not prosecute—on the contrary he allows to escape and gives compassionate allowances to men, police officers, his own officials, when they have been convicted of these crimes; that is to say, he screens and protects the police cattle-mutilators, the perjured police officers, the Dublin Castle incendiaries, the unmitigated scoundrels who do these almost unheard-of offences in order to get pay and promotion for themselves by the conviction for those offences of innocent men before packed juries. I say deliberately that if the right hon. Gentleman cannot clear himself, and he certainly has not done so yet, of direct responsibility for the screening and protecting of these criminals, he ought, for that one act alone, to be driven out of public life. I am sure of this, that no English statesman convicted of similar transactions in England, could continue sitting on that Bench. But this is only in Ireland, and as it is in Ireland, the only surprising thing is that we had managed to obtain any light on this transaction at all. Redress, I am sure, there will be none; full and open inquiry there will be none; punishment of the criminals there will be none. The one result, so far as we are concerned, will be to convince the Irish people more and more that "Sergeant Sheridans" are plentiful in Ireland, and that in moral guilt, at any rate, they are very little removed from their Dublin Castle paymasters.

Sir, one defence which Unionist Members, and, I suppose, the Chief Secretary will make, is that this is admittedly a very bad case, but that it is an isolated case, and that a similar case might happen in the best-governed country. Before I sit down let me deal with that plea. It is the only plea which can be put forward in mitigation

of this offence. I assert that it does not hold good for one moment. I assert that it has been the constant practice of various English Governments in Ireland to avail themselves of the services of men, in the police and out of the police, who were paid to promote crime, and to convict innocent men. I might, if I were so unreasonable as to detain the House much longer, give a number of instances of this kind in the last twenty years. Probably some of my hon. friends will do so. Let me give one shortly to the House, a most dramatic case, which is engraven upon my memory by the fact that it was the first case in which I addressed a jury in Ireland after I was called to the bar. In September 1887 a gang of Moonlighters in the county of Clare made a raid on the house of a farmer called Sexton. Up to that time the neighbourhood had been singularly free from crime, and certainly free from crimes of this character. The police mysteriously got word that this raid was going to take place, at this lonely house at a particular time, and Head-constable Whelehan and a large force of police went early in the evening and ambushed themselves round the house. The Moonlighters arrived with masks on their faces, carrying guns, and broke in the door of the cabin. The moment they got into Sexton's cabin the police closed round and sought to arrest them. Unfortunately they did not succeed in arresting them all. Some of them got through the door, and in the scuffle the Head-constable Whelehan received a blow from which he died. The men caught in the house were put on their trial for murder, and I was counsel, defending two of the men. The first witness produced by the Crown was a man named Cullinane who was the captain of the Moonlight gang on that occasion. He was arrested in the house with his gun in his hand, and his mask on his face. They knew practically nothing about that man, and it was the direct result of the cross-examination of that man in the witness box that the truth came out. And what came out? This man, under pressure and terror—because he was a coward—swore that he had been for six years in the pay of the police. He swore that he had

concocted this Moonlight riot with the unfortunate Head-constable who was killed. He swore that a meeting had been held just before at which the hon. Member for East Mayo spoke, and that Whelehan gave him money for this particular job, and told him it was necessary to get up some outrage in the neighbourhood to show the evil result of the speech of his hon. friend. In pursuance of these orders Cullinan got a few wild boys in the neighbourhood together, and told them it was necessary to do something of this kind to carry out the object of the Land League. The result of it all was that Cullinan, disguised as a Moonlighter, on that occasion regarded by his unfortunate youths as a pattern of men, was in reality a policeman, or, at any rate, in the pay of the police having his own transaction with the Head-constable. It turned out in cross-examination that he was a man of most infamous character. He admitted that he had been convicted eleven times of all sorts of offences—robbery, assault, drunkenness, desertion from the army, etc., culminating in one horrible charge of having committed a criminal assault on a little girl five years old. I shall never to my dying day forget the dramatic incident which occurred in Court. He was asked whether he was convicted of an assault of this character, and he said "No." He was pressed, and wavered. A record of his convictions was produced, and with a dramatic force and effect which could not be described Judge William O'Brien, who was trying the case said, "You had better admit it, because, as it happens, I was the judge who tried you and sentenced you to three years imprisonment." This was the man who for six years was the paid agent of the police and concocted these outrages. Of course nothing could be done. I may say in passing that the men were all acquitted of murder, but were convicted of a Whiteboy offence and got terms of imprisonment. No human agency could inflict any punishment upon Head-constable Whelehan, who met his death upon that occasion—but where is Cullinan? Cullinan has escaped. I suppose he has got a £200 compassionate allowance. I assert that this Sheridan case is not an isolated case. I could mention a score of cases in my own experience similar to the one I have

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referred to. But if it is an isolated case, why need the Government be afraid of a full disclosure of the facts? It is because it is not an isolated case that you are afraid to probe this matter to the bottom. It has ever been the same, not only in Ireland, but in every country and every clime and time where a despotic rule has been maintained in a country, in opposition to the will of the people who are governed, and where the Government has always been forced in the long-run to rely upon the spy, the informer, the agent-provocateur, and the perjurer. So it has been in the past history of the world, and so it is in Ireland today, and that is one of the reasons why the Irish people hate, and detest, and loathe your rule. That is why they will never be satisfied until they have razed Dublin Castle to the ground, and driven the horde of spies, informers, perjurers and agent-provocateurs, who are sheltered within its walls, away from the shores of their country. For these reasons I arraign the administration of the Chief Secretary, and I tell him that that administration rests under a stigma of dishonour and crime. I say that his administration, from every point of view, has been a failure, and I beg to move the reduction of his salary, which stands in my name.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £1,000."—*(Mr. John Redmond.)*

(3.42.) MR. DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.), in seconding the Motion, said that after the powerful indictment of the Chief Secretary's administration delivered by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, his function in addressing the Committee was a mere formality. During his hon. and learned friend's speech it struck him that it might be possible for him to give the Chief Secretary some information as to Sheridan's whereabouts. He had himself recently been in America, and he could tell the hon. Gentleman that if he wanted Sergeant Sheridan back in Ireland, he would find him in Lowell, Massachusetts. Two or three years ago the great heart of England was profoundly moved by the famous Dreyfus case. They all heard how England, in a spirit of justice, was

roused in holy indignation at the manner in which Captain Dreyfus was treated. Here was a case where the argument and the evidence was so powerful against Sheridan that they would make this a Dreyfus case throughout England, Scotland, Australia and Canada, unless the Chief Secretary met the indictment which his hon. and learned friend the Member for Waterford had presented to the House. One thing which the supporters of the Chief Secretary prided themselves upon was the impartiality of his administration. Where was the impartiality displayed in the recent suppression of public meetings at Rostrevor and Dublin. The Chief Secretary himself gave orders for the breaking up of a public meeting in the capital of Ireland. He sent policemen to bludgeon the citizens of Dublin and an Irish Member of Parliament, and before doing that he never consulted a single civil authority in Dublin as to whether his action would be wise or not. What did the Chief Secretary do in the case of Rostrevor? Why, he consulted the Grand Master of the Orangemen as to whether this meeting should take place or not. This was the impartial spirit which inspired the administration of the Chief Secretary. He seconded the Motion, because the whole policy of the Chief Secretary was to harass the peasantry, to suspend constitutional law, to break up meetings properly called, to imprison Members of Parliament, to pack juries, and to spread outrage in peaceful communities. It was known to every man in Ireland that the whole Government of Ireland was an organised machine, not for the suppression, but the creation, of crime, that there were Sheridans in every county and village in the land, for the purpose of destroying the fair fame of the country. He was one of the youngest Members of the Party, and an indictment such as that delivered by his hon. and learned friend, the Member for Waterford, only made him hate more bitterly and fight more determinedly the system under which such things were rendered possible in Ireland. There were two great combinations in Ireland—that of the harassed peasantry and that of the landlords. Why was Smith Barry sitting in the Privy Council instead of an Irish dock? Here they had a tangible instance of the system under which English rule was

carried on in Ireland, and it would be their duty, whether this House liked it or not, to carry on an agitation which would compel the Government, by a sense of the overmastering power of their movement, to give way to the repeated claims for justice which had been so often desired. The coercion policy of the present Chief Secretary would no more succeed than had the policies of his predecessors. In 1882 the Liberal party attempted to support the Land League, just as the Gentlemen on the Government Benches were endeavouring to suppress the United Irish League to-day. The Liberal party, then, had behind them the whole strength and power of the democratic forces in England. They had the great genius, and the matchless eloquence, of Mr. Gladstone to inspire them and to lead them on. They tried the policy of coercion from 1882 to 1886, but with all that power at their back they were unable to suppress the Land League, or to destroy the spirit that gave it inspiration. The men now on the Government Benches, who had degraded and lowered the name of England before all civilised humanity, and who had disgraced the military prestige of the Empire, with only a tithe of English support at their back, would not succeed where Mr. Gladstone and the powerful forces of the Liberal party failed. The power that conquered then would conquer now—that was the union of the Irish race, which was more powerful today than ever it was before. Let the landlords come on with their combination. There were twelve millions of the Irish race living in America who were burning with hate of the bad laws and rapacious landlordism which compelled their ancestors to leave their own land. These men were the descendants of those who were sent away in the famine ships of 1847, and they were a co-operative force which the Irish tenant farmers could rely upon, in every emergency, to act against the whole combination of Dublin Castle and the Irish landlords. He earnestly trusted that even yet the Chief Secretary for Ireland would cut himself adrift from the cursed influences of Irish landlordism—influences which had ruined the reputation of too many Chief Secretaries. If he did the people of Ireland were

generous, and they would forget the past, but if he refused to listen to their appeal, then the Irish race would go on with this battle, satisfied that in the end God would some day bestow upon them the priceless blessing of liberty.

*(3.55.) MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.) said four-fifths of the long speech of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford were occupied in discussing a thrice-told tale. He should have expected, after the sweeping denunciation the hon. Member had given of the Chief Secretary's policy, that he would have had some fresh facts to put before the Committee. The hon. and learned Member charged the right hon. Gentleman in a direct manner with having shielded the scoundrel Sheridan. Whatever might be the opinion of Members of the Committee as to the action the Chief Secretary took about Sheridan, no one who heard his speech last year in the debate on the Appropriation Bill, and the speech he delivered a short time ago in regard to this case, could say that there was the slightest desire on his part to screen that constable. He desired to take this opportunity of asking his right hon. friend to explain the action of the Irish Government in relation to some recent occurrences in the north of Ireland. A very large demonstration had been arranged to take place on the occasion of an anniversary in County Down. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: What was the anniversary?] The battle of the Boyne. The demonstration was arranged to take place in a village, where he was told the majority of the inhabitants were of the same religion as the great majority of the demonstrators. It had been announced for a considerable period, and until attention was drawn to it by a violent speech or letter, he thought by a Roman Catholic curate, there was no reason to suppose that it would lead to any breach of the peace, or that it would not have gone off with complete tranquillity. When public attention was aroused by that speech or letter, a counter-demonstration was threatened, and what in his judgment would have been a very orderly meeting, was suddenly transferred by those who were desirous of stopping the demonstration, into one threatening the public

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peace. The resolutions proposed were neither seditious nor disloyal. They were principally resolutions congratulating His Majesty on restoration to health, and pledging those who were there to support him and his successors. It seemed to him that it was desirable the action which the Government took should be stated in this House, for there was a feeling in Ulster that there was a disparity in the treatment dealt out by the Irish Administration, which, while favourable to those who had on several occasions in the immediate past held meetings at which sedition and disloyalty had been preached, came down with a heavy hand on those meetings where loyal resolutions were to be proposed. He, therefore, should like to hear from the Chief Secretary what were the special circumstances which on this occasion induced him to proclaim a meeting whose objects were legal and at which in ordinary circumstances there need not have been apprehended any breach of the peace. The local magistrate had decided that a comparatively small body of police would be required to preserve the peace, and that all that was necessary was to take the ordinary precaution which on many previous occasions had been taken by the Irish Government, namely, that a counter-demonstration would not be allowed. He was informed that not long ago in Armagh a meeting was held which was of a character most provocative to the vast majority of the people of that county, and at which most seditious and violent language was used. That meeting was held with the permission of the Government and under the protection of the police. It seemed to him that the action which the Government had now taken was a direct invitation to those who object to loyal demonstration to organise on every occasion a counter-demonstration, and then to appeal to the Castle on the ground that a breach of the peace might occur and get the loyal meeting proclaimed and stopped. Of course he was quite prepared to admit that there might have been circumstances which justified the Government in taking the action they did. He was perfectly willing to admit that the object for which the meeting was called was innocuous, and that for other reasons the Government might be inclined to take steps to prevent the meeting being held. He thought it right,

not only on behalf of those whom he represented, but in consequence of the feeling which existed in the province of Ulster, and which had been aggravated during the last few weeks, that the hon. Gentleman should have an opportunity of stating publicly what were the reasons which led the Government to take the step which he regretted they did. He should be glad if the decision and promptitude which characterised the Government on that occasion were signalised in the administration of the Irish Government not only in Ulster but in the rest of Ireland. He had on several previous occasions felt it his duty to complain that in the West of Ireland—in Connaught and some sections of Munster—the action of the Executive Government had not been of that character which inspired the law-abiding inhabitants with confidence, and they had allowed organisations to spring up which were calculated to intimidate the population, and which had for their object the procuring of the breaking of contracts.

The hon. and learned Member who opened the debate had spoken of a great trade contest which was going on in Ireland. To some extent he had given it a proper name. It was a great contest in which the agitator, made money by trading on the credulity of his dupes, and by means of organisations, public meetings, and speeches, induced them to go behind their legal contracts. The great case at issue now was that of the Associated Estates, and in reference to these the United Irish League had exerted all its power, and all its influence, to induce the tenants who were on good terms with their landlords, and behind whom there was pressure of inability to pay their rents, to join a movement which could only be profitable to those engaged in the agitation. The case of the Associated Estates had been represented to Parliament and to the people of the country as one in which the tenants on the De Freyne property had been so struck by the enormous disparity between their position and the position on the Dillon estate that they had been obliged to band themselves into an organisation and to claim a reduction of their rents. The right hon. Gentleman and the Government of Ireland had been blamed for not having continued the policy of purchase, begun on the Dillon estate, in the case of the De Freyne estate. It had been said that it was on

account of the sale of the Dillon estate, and the remarkable advantages which the Dillon tenants possessed, and which for the first time the De Freyne tenants were made aware of, that induced the De Freyne tenants to join the agitation. That view was absolutely absurd. It was not the case that it was the first time the tenants had become aware of the benefits of purchase, because that had been going on in the county of Roscommon for many years. No less than forty-seven estates had been dealt with by the Land Commission, by way of purchase, in the county of Roscommon, and in that particular portion where the De Freyne estate was situated, the congested portion of Roscommon, eleven estates had been dealt with by the Purchase Commissioners. So that the De Freyne tenants, like other tenants in the county of Roscommon, had for many years had before them the advantages of purchase. Yet all this time they had been free from agitation and ready to pay their rent. Right in the heart of the De Freyne estate on which it was said that an economic rent could not be paid, a town land was sold fourteen years ago and on it a reduced rate was paid by the occupiers. The De Freyne estate had been characterised by some hon. Members as one which entirely differed from any other estate in Ireland. It had been described as the poorest and the most miserable land. Well, he had never known any land in Ireland subject to agitation which was not so described. But this estate was by no means of that description. It was by no means poor. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had said there was no such thing as economic rent. There were some portions of the West where there was a constant struggle between the industry of man and the elements but that condition did not exist on the De Freyne estate.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said if he was to be quoted he would like to be accurately quoted. He had admitted that on the better class land there was economic rent; but on the small patches of bog land, for which a rent of 12s. and 15s. an acre was demanded, there was no economic rent.

*MR. MACARTNEY said he was not alluding to the Roscommon portion of the property. The estate was divided into four parts. There were Roscommon grass farms, and three other portions on which the rent was small. He absolutely challenged the hon. Gentleman's statement as to the rent on those three divisions. He had had an opportunity of going through the rental of the estate and he would give the particulars to the Committee.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that hon. friends who accompanied him were refused all information by the agents.

*MR. MACARTNEY said that might be so but it did not warrant the hon. Member coming to that House and telling them, as he did, that the average rent was 17s. per acre, when he could show the House that it was not one-third of that.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Where do the right hon. Gentleman's figures come from?

*MR. MACARTNEY: From the rental book. Lord de Freyne had nothing to conceal in connection with his property at all. He might refer to another statement which was as inaccurate as any statement could be, viz. that the tenants on this property were weighed down by hundreds and thousands of pounds of arrears which made it impossible for them to meet their engagements. That was not the case. On the Frenchpark No. 1 there were 506 tenants. The rental was £2,587 and there were only twenty-eight cases of heavy arrears. The average rental per tenant was £5 2s. and per acre 6s. 5d. On the French part No. 2 there were 439 tenants. The rental was over £3,000 a year, and there were thirty-three cases of heavy arrears only. The average rental was £7 6s., and per acre 9s. 11d. Then there was the Loughglynn portion—the poorest. There were 524 tenants, twenty-nine of whom were in heavy arrears. The rental was £2,450. The average rental per tenant was £4 13s. 6d. and per acre 5s. 6d. In the Roscommon division, with only forty-nine tenants, there were no heavy arrears; The rent was £1,700, the

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average rent per tenant £34, and the rate per acre 17s., making the average rate for the whole of the property 7s. 1d. It was said that no economic rent was possible on the Loughglynn division. He would test that statement by taking the two standard crops of Ireland—potatoes and oats. The potato crop last year was one of the finest for the last fifty years. The average produce all over Ireland was 5·3 tons per acre, which was 30 per cent. over the average of the last ten years. The first four counties for yield last year were Down, Louth, Dublin, and Armagh. Then came Roscommon, with an average yield of 5½ tons per acre, well over the average for the whole of Ireland, while the yield in the Castlereagh Union was actually larger than that of the county. As to the oat crop, the average yield was 16 cwt. per acre over the whole of Ireland; the average for Roscommon was 15 cwt., and for the Castlereagh Union 14 cwt.; whereas in the Clogher Union, which was considered to be such good land, the yield was only 15½ cwt.

Then it was said the people could not pay the rent. In ninety cases Civil Bill Decrees had been executed on this property in consequence of the combination. These extended over thirty-five different town-lands, and in eighty-six cases, when the County Court bailiff demanded the rent and costs the money was paid with the greatest ease, and in the remaining cases in which effective seizures were made the full amount was paid at once. The assertion that the costs had been piled upon these people was true, but by whom was it done? Who was it that was making it impossible for some of the De Freyne tenants ever to hope to remain in their homes? The solicitor of the United Irish League, Mr. Kilbride. When Lord De Freyne commenced his case, Mr. Kilbride forced him to serve statements of claim and to go through every legal formula; he heaped costs upon Lord De Freyne, but also upon the tenants, without any authority from or consultation with them; he then deserted the tenants and made no appearance in Court. He charged Mr. Kilbride with having deliberately piled up legal costs on the wretched dupes when there was no possible defence to the action of

Lord De Freyne, and in forcing Lord De Freyne to take these steps he was only making it impossible for the wretched dupes of the League, and the victims of this organisation, to pay the rent and the costs as well. Many of the men were perfectly able and willing to pay the rent, but they were absolutely unable to pay costs four times the amount they need have been. It would be an entire mistake for the Committee to suppose that because land was termed "bog land" nothing could be grown upon it. In the Frenchpark and Loughglynn districts he had seen as good crops of oats and potatoes this year as any in the Union of Clogher, or any part of his division. This bog land was extremely productive. He mentioned the case of a tenant who paid 4s. as the rent of his holding, and who had on the property crops of potatoes and oats, with two cows, a calf, a donkey, and two pigs, with turf free. That was not an exceptional case, and in every instance in which there was any evidence of labour or trouble having been taken on the holding, the difference could be seen between that and the neighbouring holding. What had made the mischief? It was the fact that for months in the year the men did nothing. They put in the crop and went to England in May; they returned in November, and from November to May they did nothing but wander about the country after the agitators, wasting their money and making the fortune of the whisky-shop keepers in certain districts. He would not ask the Committee to accept his judgment as to the value of the land. One could not properly value land by just walking over it, but by looking at the condition of the stock a very fair conclusion as to the inherent qualities of the soil could be arrived at. The whole of the stock on this De Freyne property was well bred and large, and in good condition. Nobody who was a judge in agricultural matters could go over the property, look at the class of stock, and notice the condition it was in, without being convinced as to the productive properties of the soil. He contended that in some parts of this property the people were in much easier circumstances, and better able to bear the stress and conflict of life, than many of the

tenants in the higher and colder mountain farms of Ulster, Fermanagh, and Tyrone. After all, the opinion of the De Freyne tenants themselves was worth something in considering the value of the land, and a large number of them were now farming holdings in regard to which they had paid considerable sums for the tenant-right. He instanced a case of a holding of fifty acres, with a rent of £27, in which £297 was paid to the out-going tenant; and another of twelve acres, with a rent of £5 5s., in which £65 was paid for tenant-right. Nine-tenths of the tenants were perfectly able to pay the rent. The hon. Member for North-West Lanark was one of the hon. Members who went over to make investigations for themselves. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman was an expert in agriculture or not, but he should be very sorry to take his opinion on the condition of the De Freyne estate, he not knowing the people or the country. The hon. Member had been to Ballaghaderreen, and said although there were in that place seventy-three public houses, it would be difficult to believe they were actually public houses.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.): What I said was that a large number of the so-called public houses were not by any means what English Members of this House would understand by public houses, and that the persons who kept them were largely concerned in selling other things, such as groceries and provisions, and the like.

*MR. MACARTNEY admitted that the Ballaghaderreen public houses were not such as hon. Members themselves would patronise, nevertheless he was confident that if the hon. Member was in the place on fair days he would see that they were very well patronised by the people. The people of Ballaghaderreen had been represented as the poorest of the poor. But in 1894 there were 465 savings bank depositors with a total sum to their credit of £19,115, whereas in Antrim the savings bank depositors, through 505 in number, had only £13,112 to their credit. The conclusion he had come to was that the hon. Members from England who recently paid a visit to this part of Ireland were

not likely to carry away very accurate impressions. They did not know the conditions in which the Irish farmer and labourer chose to live—conditions which were not accepted in England or Scotland; and the actual position of a man could not be guessed from his appearance. The tenants on the De Freyne estate, who were able to pay their rents, had been forced into this combination by intimidation, by public meetings, and midnight bands. They had been intimidated all through last winter with such effect that a responsible person had told him that his parishioners would have been guilty of any folly. The condition of terror and fear in which the tenants of the De Freyne estate lived last year was greater than that in 1887 when intimidation was at its height. But these men were not only the dupes of the agitators, but also the victims of the Government; for, if the Government had taken steps earlier, the agitating organisation would have got no hold. It was thought that Lord De Freyne, as a poor man, would easily be brought to his knees; but fortunately that had not been the case. More than a dozen of Lord De Freyne's tenants were now on the roadside, and the Government bore a great weight of responsibility in respect of those tenants. He hoped that in the stronger position which the right hon. Gentleman was to occupy, he would grip the organisation with a firmer hand, or its victims would multiply. He must make law and order respected, and establish the conviction that peaceful and law-abiding persons would be protected and not handed over to the agitators.

***(4.40) MR. MACVEAGH** (Down Co., S.) said that the right hon. Gentleman who had just addressed the Committee indulged it with figures which he had obtained from the De Freyne Estate Office. It was a great pity that that information was denied to English hon. Members who had recently visited the estate.

***MR. MACARTNEY** said that Lord De Freyne's complaint was that those hon. Gentlemen never went near him, though he would have been glad to give them every information.

Mr. Macartney.

***MR. EMMOTT** (Oldham) said that it was only fair to say that they were invited to see Lord De Freyne by Mr. Flanagan, who was anxious to give them particulars but forbidden by Lord De Freyne to do so.

***MR. MACVEAGH** said the estate books were, as a matter of fact, kept not by Lord De Freyne, but by the agent, and Lord De Freyne, as another matter of fact, was abroad at the time. The right hon. Member had dealt with the figures in so involved a manner that it had been impossible to understand them. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that the tenants of the De Freyne estate, after their return from England, spent a large part of their time in running after the agitators, but they ran after the agitators in quite a different way to certain gentleman who ran after hon. Members opposite on the 12th of July. He was surprised at the mildness of the right hon. Gentleman's protest in reference to the proclamation of the demonstration at Rostrevor, and there would be disappointment among the Orangemen in the morning. From what he had read in the Ulster papers he had feared that the Chief Secretary and the right hon. Gentleman might have almost come to fisticuffs, but the right hon. Gentleman's protest had been almost as mild as mother's milk. It was very different to what appeared in the newspapers of Armagh. He had in his hands some extracts from the *Armagh Standard* and he was very glad to see the representatives of North Armagh and Mid Armagh were in their places, because, having been elected with the aid of that paper, they would not dare to repudiate these sentiments—

"This is a time for plain speaking. The Balfour brothers and the present Chief Secretary have again and again betrayed Unionist interests, and Ulster Unionists have suffered in silence. But there comes a time when submission to wrong becomes a crime, and when every man imbued with the spirit of personal liberty will resist even to force the deprivation of his legitimate rights."

and again it said—
"Treason is to be encouraged with the sunshine of official favour; loyalty is to be ground down. It is a matter of notoriety that already there exists amongst the respectable part of Irish society the most intense dissatisfaction with Mr. Wyndham and his management of Irish affairs."

Then came a passage which he apologised for reading, and which, for downright vulgarity surpassed anything he had ever seen—

“Mr. Wyndham is a dilettante, who owes his political position to the influence of his wife, the Countess of Grosvenor, and to the fact that he was Mr. Arthur Balfour's devil. He has been a lamentable failure at the Irish Office, and has shown himself to be utterly out of tone with Irish sentiment, and incompetent to deal with the existing state of Irish affairs.”

No better argument in favour of the reduction of the right hon. Gentleman's salary could be advanced than these quotations of the views of the *Armagh Standard*, which would not be repudiated by either Member for Armagh, and which thus showed that Irish opinion was unanimous upon that point. This loyalist organ went on to say—

“Arthur Balfour tried the same policy, and his natural ability prevented him from carrying it too far, though it was, perhaps, a fortunate thing for his reputation that his change from the Irish Office took place when it did. Gerald Balfour carried on the policy of ‘killing with kindness,’ and lost the little reputation that he ever had. He was taken from the Irish Office as a hopeless failure. And ‘hopeless failure’ is the legend writ broad over the administration of Mr. Wyndham. Many will be inclined to add treachery and sheer cowardice as distinguishing characteristics of Mr. Wyndham's conduct. It has been left for a Unionist Government, or, rather, for the contemptible coward who represents it at the Irish Office, to muzzle the loyalists. We call upon our Parliamentary representatives to take immediate and rigorous action in this matter. Mr. Wyndham must be withdrawn from the Irish Office. He has had his chance—a chance which he ought never to have had—and has proved himself a failure. The opinion of loyal Ireland has long been hostile to him, as every tyro in politics knows. We are much mistaken if this last action will not go far to bring to a head the feelings of hostility and distrust with which he has long been regarded.”

Those were the views of an Orange newspaper, and he commended them to the right hon. and gallant Member and to the hon. Member opposite, the representatives of Armagh. The right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh was reported to have said at Lurgan the other day that the Nationalist Members were, “to use a gentle phrase, unbridled ruffians.”

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) said he never said anything of the kind, whatever he might have thought. He was alluding to the Nationalist party at Rostrevor, who opposed the meeting of the Orangemen.

*MR. MACVEAGH said it was not the first time the right hon. and gallant Gentleman had had to complain of being misreported. He now appeared, however, to have said that it was his (Mr. Macveagh's) constituents who were unbridled ruffians.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: So they are.

*MR. MACVEAGH said that unbridled ruffians were not confined to his constituency. Mr. Arthur Trew, one of the leaders of Belfast Protestantism, and who might be here in a short time as Member for Belfast, said—

“The Chief Secretary was a recreant coward, a villainous knave, a shandy-gaff politician. He was neither a loyalist nor a rebel.”

With regard to the Rostrevor demonstration, English hon. Members might like to know what anniversary was being celebrated. It was the anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne, fought centuries ago, and in which a Dutch usurper succeeded in defeating the lawful King of this realm, and the so-called loyalists of Ireland had gone on celebrating that event ever since. Nationalists had no objection to these men making fools of themselves in the localities in which they were the predominant partners, but no Government had ever allowed them to indulge in their drunken orgies in districts in which they were an insignificant minority. The population of the Rostrevor district was about 700, of whom 600 were Catholics. In the town itself the enrolled members of the Orange body scarcely numbered more than a baker's dozen, and no respectable Protestant had anything to do with them. The demonstration, therefore, was not local but imported, and the decision to demonstrate in Rostrevor was arrived at by the Orangemen of Armagh, some thirty miles distant. If it were local, Nationalists would not think of seeking to prevent it, for no one held more strongly than they did that minorities had their rights as well as majorities; and that however unpalatable their views may be, the minority were entitled to express them. But it was a different matter when it was proposed to import some thousands of strangers, many of them armed, and more of them drunk, for the purpose of overawing and terrifying the residents of a district. Rostrevor was a resort for invalids—the best health

resort in the kingdom. It contained numerous sanatoriums and almost innumerable invalids, and just imagine the feelings of these invalids at experiencing the drum whacking, revolver firing, and drunken jamboree of this imported rabble. Before proclaiming the Rostrevor meeting the Chief Secretary consulted the Earl of Erne, Lord High Chief Imperial Grand Master or something, and Lord Arthur Hill, Master of the Orange Light Horse. He had never heard of Nationalists being consulted about suppressing their meetings, but these potentates urged him to suppress the Orange meeting.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said they never sanctioned the proclamation, all they said was that it was injudicious to hold a meeting.

*MR. MACVEACH said that before proclaiming the Rostrevor meeting the Chief Secretary consulted two Orange magnates, the Earl of Erne and Lord Arthur Hill. He never yet heard of the Chief Secretary consulting any Nationalist Members about the proclamation of a Nationalist meeting, but this impartial Chief Secretary, before he suppressed a meeting which was bound to lead to disorder and riot, considered it proper to consult the leaders of the Orange Party before proclaiming the meeting. The prime mover in all this was a peripatetic tub thumper who called himself "reverend," but he was no more "rev." than the Chief Secretary. This Gentleman made a speech in which he said that he and the Orangemen had endeavoured to hold a meeting, but that a "crowd of savages" gathered to prevent them, and he declared that on the 12th July he would march, if not at the head of 12,000 Orangemen, at least he would be second in command. He wished to call the attention of the Committee to the provocative character of the circular which convened this meeting at Dromore. It concluded by calling upon the brethren to assemble in their thousands to uphold the principles of the Orange institutions. The local press freely spoke of the probability of a pitched battle taking place between the two parties at this meeting. The Committee had no idea as to how those Orange gatherings were got up. They gathered in the tag-rag and bob-tail of the countryside and very often paid them. He did

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not often get hold of the private circulars of the Orange organisations, but he had one in his possession from which the following was an extract:—

"It has been proposed by the rebels to hold a meeting in Dromore on Tuesday, 1st January, 1884, to promote, as we believe, sedition and disloyalty in our county, and we have been directed to apply to you for a subscription to defray the expenses and transport of loyal Protestants, Orangemen, and others, who will attend to demonstrate our antagonism. It is proposed that any subscriptions sent by various contributors be applied in proportion to the amounts offered as the then exigencies of the case may require, and as the matter is most pressing, may we request an answer by return of post."

If they attempted anything of that kind in the South or West of Ireland every man who took part would be locked up, and probably sent to penal servitude. After these men met they set out, most of them armed with revolvers, and many of them drunk. Every one knew that this was a common thing in the North of Ireland. When he put a Question to the right hon. Gentleman on the subject of armed Orangemen, the answer was that he was considering it. They had been "considering" it for a quarter of a century, and no doubt they would go on considering it for another quarter of a century. Not long ago the *Dublin Daily Express* described one of these gatherings in the following terms:—

"Some pistol shots were fired into the air in the outskirts of the crowd, and immediately the fire was taken up by several hundred persons throughout the vast assemblage. Pistols and revolvers were produced on all sides, and a continuous fusillade was maintained for nearly fifteen minutes. The leaders endeavoured to stay the deafening discharge, but for some time without effect, and one found it hard to imagine that he was not a spectator at a sham fight in the Phoenix Park. The police and military alike appeared amazed at this extraordinary display, which the Orangemen appeared to regard as a splendid joke."

But the most glaring case which had recently occurred was at Newry, when the Orange party were on the way to Warrenpoint. They began firing, as usual, out of the train, and two persons were injured. It happened that an English lawyer was looking on and was nearly hit. He immediately took train, vowing he should never visit Newry again. This was not in South Africa, but in Ireland. Three policemen and

two civilians had very narrow escapes. One arrest was made and what happened? This man was brought up before a packed bench of magistrates, and their decision was, that as no evidence had been given that the accused fired with the intent to maim, they would discharge him. When he called attention to the case of this man, with his revolver in his hand and his pocket stuffed with cartridges, the Chief Secretary upheld the decision of the magistrates and said it was perfectly correct, but he wished to know if the case was going to be allowed to rest where it was? Were men passing through a crowd to be allowed to fire revolvers? If so the sooner it was proclaimed for the next gathering of Irish landlords the better. The Chief Secretary was probably not aware that there was on record on the journals of the House a Motion moved by Lord John Russell praying that the King should take such measures as he thought necessary for the effectual discouragement of Orange lodges in Ireland, and this Resolution was unanimously agreed to, and the King promised to take such measures. He recommended these facts to the attention of the Committee.

(5.15.) MR. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.) said he was glad, as an Ulster Member, to have the opportunity of referring to the policy of the Government in Ireland. He had recently been in County Antrim, in Belfast, and at the funeral of one whom both sides of the House revered, his late friend William Johnston. There was the greatest dissatisfaction in Ulster at the present policy of the Government. From the Chief Secretary's point of view there were three parties in Ireland—first the party who considered that the concessions which from time to time he had made to the Nationalist Party in Ireland disqualified him for office; second, the wider class that offered sympathy to the Chief Secretary in the many and onerous difficulties and responsibilities of his position, and who were anxious to help him in the interest of the country, and not of party merely, in carrying them to a successful conclusion; and third, the class represented by hon. Members opposite who, no matter what might be done in the way of agricultural grants, grants

for piers and harbours, the extension of Local Government, ignoring breaches of the law here and winking at it there, would accept no benefit from the hand of what they called a foreign Minister, and nothing that he could do could be reasonably expected to satisfy them. This policy of concession had been tried again and again in Ireland. He did not think the Chief Secretary should be controlled from the party point of view, but from the party point of view they saw at the last election how it led to the loss of two seats in Dublin. In the interest of the good government of the country itself it was a misfortune that those who formed the larger second class to whom he had alluded—those who sympathised with the difficulties of the Chief Secretary should be driven into the first class. He did not say this lightly. There was an idea abroad in the North of Ireland, and there was no use burking it, that the Government would go to any extreme in making concessions to the Nationalists at the expense of their own supporters. There was the question of the claim of the moderator of the Presbyterian Church. That might seem a small matter, but it was one which was deeply felt by the ministers of that church. It was believed that if the moderator had been a bishop of the church to which hon. Members opposite belonged his claim would have been settled at once. He would give another instance—these straws showed how the wind blew. A small disturbance took place in County Down. It was not a political matter at all; but unfortunately the newly elected Member for South Down discovered that two or three of the persons charged belonged to an Orange institution, and he began to ask Questions in the House as to when proceedings would be taken, in which he was assisted by the hon. Member for South Tyrone. The result was that, instead of these men being prosecuted at petty sessions for disorderly conduct, they were tried for riotous conduct at the Assizes, where the case was laughed out of court.

MR. MACVEAGH: How many jurors were ordered by the Crown to stand aside in the Orange trial?

MR. WILLIAM MOORE said the question of jurors being ordered to stand aside did not arise here. That prosecution was largely due to the political interest taken in it by the hon. Member for South Down, and the feeling was general in the North of Ireland that if these prisoners had been Nationalists instead of Orangemen proceedings at petty sessions would have been resorted to. With regard to the Rostrevor case the hon. Member said the Orange celebration at that place had been jeered at, but there was nothing peculiar in choosing that place for a holiday. Rostrevor was on the coast, and it was the place to which Sunday Schools, Foresters, Gardeners, and religious and philanthropic societies took their outing. He had received an account of the disturbance which took place from an educated man, a civil servant, who stated that he was in Rostrevor on a bicycle tour. He found in the market place a band of men armed with pitchforks, staves, and clubs, and there was a kind of expectancy on their faces. On inquiring what this meant he was informed that they were waiting for the Orangemen who were coming through Rostrevor. There were only about half a dozen policemen in the town, and being unable to prevent a disturbance a free fight took place. It had been stated that the men who were brought into the town broke the chapel windows, but on inquiry it was discovered that there was no foundation for the allegation. With regard to the occurrence at Rostrevor, he said that there was a breach of the peace last year, and it was the duty of the Government, when this year they found that the Orangemen had made arrangements for their meeting weeks in advance, to see that there should be no breach of the peace. A branch of the United Irish League in the locality declared they would not permit an Orange procession at Rostrevor. The peace might have been preserved by preventing the crowds from meeting. It was not the case that they had not a force to prevent a breach of the peace. They brought down not only a large number of police, but a regiment of soldiers; but the result was that because a bogus Nationalist opposition meeting was announced, the Government, to get

out of the difficulty, proclaimed both meetings. That had given rise to much dissatisfaction in the North of Ireland, and he hoped his right hon. friend would give some explanation of the action he took, if explanation there could be. He maintained that the police and the soldiers ought to have been moved to the approaches to the town so as to prevent a breach of the peace. No doubt they would be told that the Government were impartial because they had proclaimed both meetings. But suppose a sentry found two men approaching his post, a friend and a foe, and he shot each of them, that might be called impartiality, but it would be neither patriotic or politic. Here was a loyal body about to meet to proclaim its devotion and fealty to the Crown, and it was put on the same level as a disloyal United Irish League Meeting, and proclaimed! He contended that impartiality, when it was relied upon, must have some regard to precedent. Now what were the precedents? He supposed there was no city in which party feeling ran so high as in Belfast; yet in 1898 a procession of Nationalists was held and it passed through the city of Belfast, the hon. Member for East Mayo, who was in that procession, being protected by a great force of police.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that, as the hon. Gentleman had stated, he had been present at that meeting, but, as in all other like cases, the Government had laid down the route to be taken, and they were prohibited from going into any other part of the city.

MR. WILLIAM MOORE said he did not discuss the question of route; what he said was that the police were there to give the hon. Member protection. In Donegal there was a question of an Orange celebration on the 12th July, and the route was laid down by the police authorities exactly in the same way as in Belfast. In the case of Rostrevor the aggressors ought to have been limited to their own district. He wished to ask what the policy of the Government was going to be in the future about these meetings? If there was a threat of a counter demonstration by the Nationalists, were the Unionist and Loyalist meetings

going to be proclaimed? That was the impression in the North of Ireland, and it was giving rise to great discontent at the present moment. He would take another case which had occurred since the Rostrevor event. He referred to a Nationalist meeting in Cork which the Government objected to and directed the High Sheriff of the county, who had charge of the safe-guarding of the peace in the county, to disperse it; but that decision of the Government was flouted and ignored by the Nationalist party. On Friday last there was a pretended meeting of the County Council of Cork in the Cork County Court. [Nationalist cries of "No."] He said pretended for this reason, that nine members of the County Council could not constitute a quorum, and there were only nine members of the County Council at that meeting on Friday morning. It was, however, sufficient to give this rump of nine members the opportunity to take possession of the court house; and then they proceeded to take the control of the room in which they sat for a so-called convention of the United Irish League. Now, the control of the court house, as the judges of the High Court have decided, was vested in the High Sheriff. But, as he understood it, when the High Sheriff went into the court house his presence was at once challenged by the hon. Member for Cork as an interrupter and an interloper. It was the duty of the High Sheriff to carry out the ordinary law and to exclude this gathering from the court house under express directions from the Castle. From the answer which his right hon. friend had given to a Question of his that day, he understood that the High Sheriff called upon the local police to assist him in clearing the court house, and it appeared from the reports in the newspapers that the police refused to assist the High Sheriff in the discharge of his duty. Now, he had heard it said over and over again in Belfast, and in Ulster generally, during the last three or four days, that it would be interesting to see how, in the case of this open defiance and flouting of the law by the Nationalists in Cork, the Government would proceed to enforce respect for their orders. [Laughter.] He did not know why hon. Members opposite should laugh. Would it be left to the Orangemen, who

had dutifully obeyed the orders given to them, to discard these orders in the future because there never was any intention to enforce them? In the North of Ireland they were determined to have a test case to see how far the Government would proceed with them on the same lines. The Committee had heard that at the meeting at Rostrevor the usual loyal resolutions were to be carried, but what was done at Cork? At that meeting in Cork the hon. and learned Member for Waterford made a speech in which he said that the people of Ireland were determined to come to close quarters with the Government, and to make the Government of Ireland by England, according to present methods, difficult and dangerous, and in the end impossible. The hon. and learned Member went as near as possible to incitement to insurrection. Ireland, said the hon. and learned Member, would today be amply justified in rebelling by force of arms if she had the means. But by oppression and the ruin of the country she had not the means, and it was not in the power of Irishmen to rebel against the present system. It was, however, in their power, if they had the courage to do it, to make the present system, which was a mixture of coercion and oppression, absolutely impossible. These sentiments were spoken in the court house of Cork in defiance of the High Sheriff with Dublin Castle at his back. What action was the Government going to take in that matter? He acknowledged the courtesy with which hon. Members opposite had heard him, but he was only expressing what the feeling was of those with whom he was coming in daily contact in his own home, and he trusted that the opportunity would be given to his right hon. friend to clear up the apprehensions which were so prevalent in the North of Ireland.

(5.38.) MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire) said that although he was not an Irish Member the conditions of Irish administration had a profound interest for him, as indeed it ought to have for all of them. In every other part of the British Empire they saw progress, or at least hope. In South Africa, after the prolonged and bitter war had come to an end, there were elements of hope for the

future. But in Ireland there seemed to be no grounds for such hope. Chief Secretary after Chief Secretary had appeared on the scene with the ambition to do his best for Ireland, with the hope—the vain hope—that things would improve in the course of his administration, only to find that at the end of his period things remained as they were when he entered into office. The debate to which they had listened was an illustration of the extreme difficulty in which every Chief Secretary was placed. The present Chief Secretary was blamed from both sides. They had heard the right hon. Gentleman blamed severely on one side for what was called the weakness and vacillation of his policy, and then there was a most powerful attack made upon him for his severity by the other side. The fault could not lie in the individual. He had listened that night to the severe attack upon the motives which had inspired the right hon. Gentleman's actions in the case of Sheridan. He acquitted the right hon. Gentleman of any such motives. He knew he was a man of the highest character, of the greatest idealism, inspired by the keenest desire to do his best for the country with which he was so closely associated by ties of blood; and yet the right hon. Gentleman was in a position in which he could give no satisfaction to either side of the House. There must be some deep-rooted cause for that failure—a cause that was not in the individual Chief Secretary but in the extraordinary difficult situation in Ireland, where there were two people separated from each other by religion, almost by race, and divided in a fashion to which there was no parallel in any other part of the United Kingdom. In that state of things it was the duty of the Government to enforce the law, and see that it was obeyed; but it was no less their duty to bring the administration of the law into harmony with the aspirations of the majority of the people. They never would succeed in the task, such as they had got before them, if they made themselves the allies of one section of the people, and that section the minority. He did not wish it to be understood that he was without sympathy with the minority. He thought the unfortunate landlords had often

been made scapegoats. He felt deep sympathy with men like Lord De Freyne, and he believed that it would be the best investment the British Exchequer ever made to get rid of such landlords, not on mere terms of a commercial bargain, but to give them a bonus to clear out. The spectacle of one estate where the landlord was able to afford improvements and reduce rents, contrasted with another estate where the landlord was too poor to part with what stood between him and poverty, was a state of things that must involve discontent. The cheapest thing for the people in this country would be, if necessary, to put their hands in their pockets, so as to relieve the situation which had created such acute tension in some parts of Ireland.

The first case mentioned in this debate was that of Sheridan. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford made a speech of great eloquence, in which he told a story, which, unfortunately, had been told a hundred times before in this House, of the breakdown of the machinery of government—of a man of ruffianly character getting into a position in which he ought not to have been, and abusing that position in the most cruel and abominable fashion. The hon. and learned Member made an attack on the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary which he thought was not wholly deserved; because the right hon. Gentleman manfully rose at the earliest moment to repudiate altogether the conduct of Sheridan, and any desire to shield him. But he did think that there was some foundation for the criticisms, not of the motive of the right hon. Gentleman, but of the course which the right hon. Gentleman had felt himself forced to pursue. The case of Sheridan was a very great scandal, but Sheridan was dismissed only on the undertaking that the witnesses would not be called upon to testify against him in a court of justice. But though he thought there was no ground for criticism of the right hon. Gentleman's motives, he did feel that he ought to have made an attempt by a criminal trial to bring Sheridan to justice, and to show to all the world that he dissociated himself wholly and utterly from the man's crimes. He did not

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blame the Irish administration as a whole. They had a difficult task to perform : the Constabulary had shown on the whole a desire to do its work with energy and ability. But when a black sheep appeared, the obligation was all the greater to sift the matter to the bottom and bring the criminal to justice. He was keenly aware of the extraordinary difficulty in which the Chief Secretary was placed. No Irish legislation could please both parties in Ireland. It was impossible to govern Ireland in these days with a wide franchise according to the view of the minority. But, on the other hand, the Chief Secretary would not let himself go in the only direction in which it was possible to get the Government of Ireland on to a proper footing, which was to enlist more and more the sympathies of the people to his side. He did not believe in the policy of coercing British opinion. Hon. Members from Ireland put themselves in antagonism to their own interests by alienating, as they constantly did, British opinion. They did not imagine that the people of this country listened to stories like that of Sheridan without a feeling of shame, and yet the reason such stories were received with indifference was not far to seek. There was a rooted fear on the part of the people of England that, if large powers were given to those who represented the majority in Ireland, they would use them to the prejudice of the minority. He, for his part, believed there was a policy which, if it were pursued with continuity and was not made the shuttlecock of partisanship, could be carried out with a large measure of success—the policy which would result in the people of Ireland getting the largest measure of control over their own affairs, and in drawing to them the confidence of the people of this country, who, when they saw things going step by step, and successfully, would be more and more ready to assent to a large extension of the power of control being given to the Irish people. The policy of the right hon. Gentleman was a policy of making large attempts, which were doomed to hopeless failure. He regarded the question as a particularly burning one, and considered that the time had come to put in a better position the only part of the British Empire which

was in this black condition. That was only to be done by winning the confidence of the people. It might be said that that was a difficult matter for the right hon. Gentleman to do, but it was the policy to follow out, and he was not without hope that the right hon. Gentleman might before long be able to mould his policy with regard to Ireland with greater authority than at present. It was a constructive policy that Ireland needed. The Irish people were reasonably disappointed with its slowness. They wanted something larger, and he wanted them to have something larger. He believed that if the right hon. Gentleman would pursue the policy of extending the sphere of administration by the people themselves, and would not be afraid of bringing forward such measures in a bolder fashion than anything that had yet been seen, there would be a great mitigation of the bitterness that now existed. It was a hard burden to put upon the right hon. Gentleman. But he was a man of originality and imagination ; a great career was before him ; he had a great opportunity ; and it was to be wished that he would take the opportunity of making a clean sweep of some of these miserable things of which they had heard that day, and in relation to which he was made, not to do what was wrong, but to soften the position of those who found themselves dismissed from the police force for a great crime, and to take up an attitude towards them which could not but alienate the great mass of impartial onlookers. He wished the right hon. Gentleman could indicate a bolder course of administration, a course marked by some clear outlook. He had recognised in his policy and that of his predecessors a tendency towards something better. He hoped this tendency would be magnified and increased, and the elements of Irish policy complained of on the other side greatly diminished. They would all, in that hope, listen with interest to what the right hon. Gentleman had got to say in this debate.

(6.5.) Mr. WYNDHAM : I am afraid that I shall have to disappoint the right hon. and learned Member who has just addressed you. This is not, in my opinion, an occasion for laying down a constructive policy for Ireland, and

certainly it is not an occasion on which I could, without being charged almost with insanity, state that I have found a solution of the Irish question which is to operate in the course of the next three months. Far be it from me—it would be impossible for any one—to reply in a controversial spirit to the speech which the right hon. and learned Member has just made. It was a balanced, an impartial, a kind-hearted, and a philosophic speech. But I must tell him that philosophic impartiality is the quality which he will find least appreciated in Ireland; and he must himself have noticed that those good counsels which he gave with philosophic impartiality, now to myself and now to hon. Members opposite, were received with chilling silence. When he was giving advice to them I agreed with every word; when he was giving advice to me, I believe they were honestly with him; but I believe we all felt that this attitude of balanced calm was so foreign to anything to which we are accustomed in Ireland, that even if we did agree we should be betraying our ignorance of the whole subject if we allowed our enthusiasm to carry us away into cheers. The right hon. Gentleman's speech was a summary, not so much of the debate, as of the impressions which the debate had made upon him. They were the familiar impressions, he told us, that we all remembered in debates of this kind. But how did this debate begin? The hon. and learned Member for Waterford, who moved the reduction of the Vote, said he found in that Motion an occasion for condemning the entire system of Government for which I, as Chief Secretary for the time being, happen to be responsible to this House. He followed that up with a series of short but sweeping charges against the police, the magistrates, and the Government upon this matter, and upon other matters. I shall pray for the indulgence of the Committee if I trespass on their time to make an explanation of the position of the Government, which is the position of the Government which preceded it, and a comprehensive reply to this weighty attack. But before I do that, it will be felt that I ought to deal with some extraneous and separate matters which have been imported into the general trend of this debate. I will get them out of the

way, and return to the main charge of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford.

I have been asked categorically to state the reason on which the Government founded its action at Rostrevor. On August 12th last year an Orange excursion party passed through Rostrevor on the way to Warrenpoint. The party numbered about 300; they were on brakes and cars. On arriving at Rostrevor they sent their vehicles along the shore road, which was the usual road followed by such parties, and they themselves marched in procession through Rostrevor, playing party tunes and shouting party cries. A collision, of course, resulted. The police did their best to preserve order, but in consequence of this unprecedented action on the part of the Orange procession—for no procession had before marched through their town—reprisals were on their return undoubtedly made by some of the Catholics, who were there in a large majority, and had gathered together—incensed, it may be, by some exaggerated accounts, as that the windows of the chapel had been broken, or incensed, in any case, because an Orange party demonstration, using party cries and playing party tunes, had gone through a Catholic district which had never been traversed by such a party before. There were a number of assaults, and a number of cross-summonses at the next petty sessions at Warrenpoint. The Bench, as I hold very wisely, counselled the mutual withdrawal of these summonses and advised the parties to use their best endeavours to live at peace in the future. Now, that is the reason for the action which the Government has taken. You have an Orange procession proceeding by a route which has never before been followed. You have that procession indulging in party tunes and cries. You have a Catholic party or Nationalist party making reprisals. You have a Court of petty sessions making the peace and advising them to keep it. There had been an unprecedented provocation, an illegal reprisal, and then a counsel of reconciliation. That being what took place last year, it came to the knowledge of the Government that a circular was being sent round urging that a new Orange demonstration should be made at this very place, obviously for the purpose of retaliation—of not leaving the whole matter where it stood. I, as an

Mr. Wyndham.

individual, might not altogether condemn that, recognising it as being a kind of temptation to which we all may be liable; but as a Minister responsible for the government of that country, I held, in common with Lord Cadogan, that we ought not to allow the setting up of new places where each party thought it was bound in honour to hold demonstration and counter-demonstration year by year. A certain number of such places now exist. These places it might be imprudent and a counsel of perfection to decrease; but we hold as a general rule that new incursions into the enemy's country either way should not be allowed when their introduction was for the purpose of provocation or for the purpose of retaliation. And I would point out that that rule is not a new departure. It is a reasonable and logical extension of the rule which has hitherto been followed. In Belfast, where both parties reside, the Executive has never allowed the Orange party to march through Catholic quarters, or the Catholic party to march through Orange quarters. But, surely, if that be a sound rule, it is a sound extension of it to say that an Orange excursion is not to go forty miles through intensely Catholic districts, or, *vice versa*, that a Catholic excursion is not to go through Orange districts. I do not know whether that will be accepted by everybody as satisfactory action on the part of the Government, but it will be taken as not being assistance to one side or the other, but as intended to be a sound rule of administration which, in the opinion of the Irish Government, it is wise on such occasions to follow.

Then I think the hon. Member for North Antrim also raised the question of the Cork County Court-house. I am prepared to explain what happened there, as there seems to be a good deal of doubt upon the subject. There is no doubt that the Court-house is in the custody of the high sheriff. Baron Hughes laid it down in 1867 that the custody of the Court-house was entirely vested in the high sheriff of the county; and Chief Baron Palles, in January, 1900, said—

"It is an established maxim in our administration of justice that the Court-house is vested, by virtue of his office, in the high sheriff."

It is clear from the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1898 that it is not the duty of the sheriff to allow the Court-house to be employed for a political gathering. There is no shadow of doubt that the Court-house cannot be employed as a place to hold demonstrations of a kind that are a great scandal to all people who wish to see the law duly obeyed and revered in the country. Nobody knows that better than the hon. Members who ask what right had the sheriff to intervene. [A Voice: "Who built the Court?" "Who paid for it?"] Nobody knows it better than the hon. Members who this session have introduced a Bill, which I think is not likely to pass, two clauses of which are for the purpose of making that lawful which is now unlawful. That Bill would not have been introduced if they had not been well aware that a Court-house under the existing law cannot be used for a political meeting. For reasons I find it hard to follow, the High Sheriff seems to have been in doubt as to his responsibilities and his duties, clear as they are; and it was only late on the evening before the meeting that he telegraphed to the Government for instructions. The High Sheriff had no need of instructions. He has many duties, of which this is one, but there was no more occasion for him to ask for instructions in this matter than in the execution of a writ. The duty of the Government is to give to the sheriff all the force needed for his protection, but the office upon which he is engaged is matter for himself, and not for instruction or direction from the Government. But I am prepared to allow that in this case there was some difficulty and perplexity, for the County Council were allowed to hold their meeting, and it was the duty of the sheriff to allow it. The County Council having held a meeting at noon, at half-past one that meeting was resolved into a meeting of the United Irish League. It was not until two o'clock that the local police received any communication from the high sheriff. It was not until three o'clock that they were able to collect first some twenty and then sixty men. The district inspector then came to the conclusion that he ought not, with so small a force, to endeavour to disperse a meeting of 800 persons inside a room with locked doors.

[Cries of "Not locked."] The inspector general, after considering the use he had made of his discretion, agreed that the district inspector was right under the circumstances. But a grave scandal has occurred. If hon. Members listened to some of the extracts given by the Member for North Antrim from the speech made at this meeting by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, they can come to only one conclusion—that the whole of the manoeuvre and the speeches made were calculated to affront, were designed to affront, and did affront the sentiment of a number of sober, law-abiding, peaceful citizens. [Interruption.] What a commentary are these jeers on the eirenicon of the hon. and learned Member for Haddington! If it is held permissible for a public body elected on a liberal and popular franchise, entrusted with grave matters of local concern, dispensing large sums of money collected in the district, and administering large sums from the common exchequer—if it be permissible, is it tolerable that such a body should take part in this tricky form of sky-larking, and then make it an occasion for delivering speeches which are intended to affront the sentiments of the great majority of the inhabitants of these two islands? That is a matter which deserves, and will receive, the attention of the Government.

I pass hastily to some incidental attacks which were made in the course of the debate upon Mr. Harrel, the resident magistrate who had charge of a Crimes Act case at Sligo. I do not intend to delay the Committee long over this matter, but I feel bound to resent and reject the attacks which have been made upon a magistrate who has been faithfully discharging his duty, and upon the Under Secretary for Ireland—that is to say, a permanent Civil servant. We generally spare Civil servants in our debates in this House, and are content to attack the political Minister responsible for their actions. I think it is deplorable that in the course of this debate one allusion after another should have been made to the fact that Sir D. Harrel is the father of this resident magistrate, Mr. Harrel; because those who made the allusion, and those who now greet my reply with derision, know perfectly well that Sir David Harrel acted as any Civil

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servant in that position must act, as the instrument merely of the Executive Government to carry out the orders and discharge all that is needed to effect the policy of the Government of the day. [Cries of "And so did his son."] It is suggested that a peculiar selection was made of Mr. Harrel instead of employing a magistrate resident in the district. I will not elaborate that. I should say that Mr. Harrel and Mr. Brown were the two obvious selections; but I should like to give the Committee the reasons which actuated the Government in not appointing Mr. Henn to adjudicate in this case. It will then be seen by the Committee that the Government, far from seeking a bench likely to be hostile to the hon. Member for North Leitrim, avoided purposely including on that Bench a man who had been outrageously attacked in the hon. Member's newspaper. The reason why Mr. Henn was not appointed was because the newspaper with which the hon. Member for North Leitrim is closely associated attacked him again and again in language I scarcely like to repeat in this House. The Committee will, I hope, feel the propriety of the course followed by the Government in not setting up as judge an honourable man and an able lawyer who had been subjected to vilification by the man who was to be tried. [Cries of "Why select Harrel?"]

I think, although I have twice made a speech about Sheridan, I ought, perhaps, to add a few words this afternoon. But they shall be very brief, because I have fully stated the action taken and the reasons for it, and two divisions have been taken in the House on the subject. I know I have not convinced hon. Members opposite that the course I followed was the right one, but I have had the support of the majority of Members in the House, and I do not believe that I should have had a majority if the House believed that I was fairly accused, as I was this afternoon by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, of being guilty of conduct which would justify my being driven out of public life.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I stated that if the right hon. Gentleman did

not vindicate himself from responsibility for what occurred, then he ought to be driven from public life. He has not yet done so.

MR. WYNDHAM: I have twice vindicated myself. The hon. Member does not accept my vindication, but if I had not succeeded in the sense in which he now uses the word, I should not have had a majority of hon. Members in the House. "They did not know the facts." Let me pick up the gravamen of his attack. It was in his concluding words: "I charge the Government with having hushed up this affair." He began his sentence by saying, "I am of opinion," and then he changed and said, "No, it is not a matter of opinion. I charge the Government." Well, my reply, which is sufficient to meet that charge, is that, but for the Government, no one in this House would ever have heard of Sergeant Sheridan. ["Oh, oh!"] I will run briefly over this much-travelled ground. A tramp called Ryan was arrested on January 4th for posting a threatening notice, a somewhat trivial offence. The depositions were unsatisfactory, and bore upon them marks of having been "cooked" by Sheridan and another officer named Mahony. The prosecution was abandoned on January 25th, and Ryan was released on the 26th. I recommended the discharge from the force, without claim to pension, of Sheridan and Mahony on February 4th, and on the 9th they were discharged. Many appeals came to the Government from Sheridan, many Questions were asked in the House during the month of March, but not one Question was asked referring, even in the remotest degree, to the earlier cases which have now been discussed. The only reference, as far as I recollect, was in a Question from the hon. Member for South Leitrim in the early summer as to the case of McGoohan. I, acting for the Government, on looking into these earlier cases, advised that there should be a secret inquiry in order to make reparation, if that were possible, to these men in the event of its being shown that they had been improperly convicted. Two officers were charged with that secret investigation on May 18th, and the

report of those officers was sent to the Irish Government on July 15th. I cannot name the day, or even the week, in which I investigated the report myself, but it was towards the end of the session, when there was a good deal of business in the House. I do not know whether it was at the end of July or the beginning of August that I investigated the report; but my case is, not that I investigated the report with a view to the prosecution of Sheridan for forgery—I have never advanced, and do not now advance, the statement that I took the report and considered it with a view to the prosecution of Sheridan, who had been discharged more than five months previously—I took it to see if I should be justified administratively in making reparation to the persons convicted on the evidence of Sheridan, to get at the truth, and to measure the extent of what seemed to me to be a most monstrous evil. If now, therefore, I give reasons that might have actuated me in not prosecuting Sheridan, it is, I admit, something in the nature of an *ex post facto* statement. The report contained no evidence: it was not based on evidence; it enforced the moral conviction by its cumulative effect. As I stated when this matter was discussed in August last, in each case the officers showed that the arrest was made prior to the verification of the offender charged. I said then, as I say now, that this, happening once, would be a wonderful coincidence; that if it occurred twice it would be matter for incredulity; and that, happening thrice, it became an insult to one's intelligence. I therefore felt justified in concluding that the men condemned were entitled to reparation.

MR. DILLON: The right hon. Gentleman says the report contained no evidence. Does he mean to tell us that no evidence was taken during the secret inquiry?

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member knows perfectly well that statements made not on oath are not evidence. I now come back to the point raised. What is urged is that, having a report written by the two officers stating their conclusions, I ought at the end of July or beginning of August to have set about taking depositions from the persons

whom they had interviewed. I did investigate closely the possibilities of such a course. Having discharged Sheridan in February, having in May appointed two officers to hold an inquiry, with full power to arrive at the truth, and they having assured the policemen connected with Sheridan that if they told the truth they would not suffer, I felt that it was out of the question to put the police officers in the witness box. ["Why not?"] I know hon. Members do not agree with me; but they have stated their case three times, and I may be allowed to state what passed and what was present to my mind. I cannot give the terms or the words used to these men. They were verbal, and they were given to these men by those who conducted the inquiry. But they were of this character—that, when I had the result of the investigation, and the account of the means employed, before me, I felt, rightly or wrongly, that I was bound to keep these men in the constabulary if they wished to remain. *A fortiori*, I could not, in my opinion, put them into the witness box, and even if I had, I could not have compelled them to give any evidence which they were not prepared to give of their own free will.

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): But they had been parties to a crime.

MR. WYNDHAM: One of them, in my opinion, was a party to a crime. The other two, in my opinion, knew that Sheridan was not speaking the truth, and if they had had sufficient moral courage they might have exposed him, but they did not do so.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: But the right hon. Gentleman still thought it desirable that they should remain in the constabulary force.

MR. WYNDHAM: I did not think it was desirable. I thought it was a grave calamity, and I have so stated. But I had to choose between two calamities—keeping people in the police force who ought not to be kept there, and breaking an undertaking which had been given by the Government. It was explained to these men that if they were kept in

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the force they could never be used in any position of trust. An hon. Member said that one of these men was still free to interfere with the people of Ireland. I stated most explicitly the other day that it was explained to them that they could never leave the depôt; that they could, if they liked, go on serving for such pay as they were entitled to, but that, if they left the force and sought to find a place again as honest men, they would be allowed to do so, and would be given the means for starting afresh. That has been derided as giving a compassionate allowance.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: You used the phrase yourself.

MR. WYNDHAM: Would the undertaking given to these men, in order to arrive at the truth, have been carried out if they had been turned out of the force in which they were earning high wages, cut off from the pension to which they were entitled, and turned into the streets in the clothes in which they stood? No; it was necessary that they should be given a certain sum of money. But supposing another course had been adopted—the course which, I gathered the other night, the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries would himself have recommended. I had it present to my mind that, in Ryan's case, but a few months before, it had been impracticable to take proceedings against Sheridan for perjury. It did not occur to me that that which was impracticable in respect of an offence of five months standing would prove more feasible in cases all of which were three years old, and in which the principal witness could not be compelled to go into the box and incriminate himself. This impression—I ought not to call it a conclusion—was heightened by the fact that in the first case—in Bray's case—the poor man, unfortunately, had died long before I ever heard the name of Sergeant Sheridan. In the second case—the case of Murphy—he had pleaded guilty, and any one acquainted with the difficulties of proving a charge of perjury will conceive what slight grounds there were for expecting a conviction when you endeavour to prove perjury in a case that had been determined previously by due

process of law. In the third case—McGoohan's case—there was no evidence, and no chance of obtaining evidence, outside the admissions of Sheridan's accomplices. McGoohan himself had made an affidavit, saying, "I was alone that night, and it was impossible for me to make a defence or to explain my action." What evidence could a man in those circumstances give in the box?

MR. LEAMY (Kildare, N.): Could he not swear that he did not do it?

MR. WYNDHAM: The cumulative effect of these three cases was convincing to me. But, in a prosecution for perjury, each one of these cases would have been tried singly on its own merits; and I am of opinion—I may be wrong—that if each one had been tried singly on its own merits, Sheridan would have been acquitted—the jury would almost certainly have been divided. Had that been so, the results achieved—namely, the making of reparation to innocent men, and the ridding the force of those who had in any degree connived at Sheridan's malpractices—would most certainly have been imperilled. Now, it must seem all plain sailing when every hon. Member who speaks in this House accepts from me that I was the first person who had proof that Sheridan was a scoundrel, and that he did commit these villainies. But, at the time of which we are speaking, that was not the view. The hon. Member for East Mayo himself, speaking on August 17 last year, made a balanced speech, saying that Sheridan was either guilty or the victim of some vile conspiracy on the part of his brother officers. That went on. The Press—what I may call the Nationalist Press—either suggested that Sheridan was himself an innocent victim, or balanced between the two alternatives, and more than that, Canon Scully, the priest of the parish in Limerick where Sheridan had served, wrote a letter, to the *Daily Independent*, I think it was, in which he professed his entire belief in the innocence of Sheridan, and regarded him as being the victim of a conspiracy. So that, if Sheridan had been put on his trial, you would not have had the general view that he was a villain who might be condemned with or without

legal evidence. You would have had the view that he was an innocent man, who himself had been the victim of oppression. As far as I can recollect, it was not until a letter appeared, written by the hon. Member for South Leitrim, who all along seems to have held that Sheridan was a villain, in the *Daily Independent*, that Sheridan left the country, and that everybody seemed to come round to the view, which I have held since July, that Sheridan was a villain.

MR. LEAMY: Why did you not arrest him?

MR. WYNDHAM: Then this melancholy, deplorable case has been used as the starting-point for accusations for which there is no foundation at all. We have had great indignation of these false charges of Sheridan. That indignation comes from hon. Members who, without a shred of evidence, think they are entitled to say that Sheridan is but a type and a sample; and, again, it is represented that if these men were convicted, as they were although innocent, it was due to the machinations of the Government. Take the case of McGoohan. When he was first brought up he was remanded by a Justice of the Peace, Dr. Mulcahy. He is not a supporter of the Government. I understand he is himself a leading Nationalist, a member of the United Irish League and of the Directory. That person, who you cannot say was a prejudiced party, accepted Sheridan's story, pressed somewhat hardly, as I now think, against McGoohan, and sent him by his own action to be tried at Sligo. [AN IRISH MEMBER: What else was he to do as a Magistrate?]. I hope hon. Members will allow me to proceed. I do not think my point is an imperceptible one. It is that that person, who cannot be considered to have been an agent of the Government, was himself at the time of opinion that McGoohan was a person who ought to be returned for trial, and was himself the person who returned him for trial at Sligo. We are told that Sligo juries are packed, and it has been suggested that the Government sent McGoohan to be tried at Sligo on that account. But on the first jury there was a majority of Catholics, and on the

second jury, which unanimously came to the conclusion that McGoochan was guilty, there was again a Catholic and a Nationalist, Mr. J. T. O'Brien, of Ballymole. He must have been convinced that McGoochan was not an innocent man. The fact is, Sheridan deceived the magistrate—he deceived the jury at Sligo—he deceived the papers which appeared to champion his cause—he deceived many hon. Members opposite; and it is only when in the long run he failed to deceive the Government that all these hon. Members band themselves together and make out that the Government is alone to blame for not having detected this infamy before.

But the charge that Sheridan is but a fair type and sample of the police is one which must be repudiated with some warmth. Who are the Royal Irish Constabulary? The pick and flower of the small farmers of the Irish race, related by marriage and friendship to all those who are most prominent supporters of hon. Members opposite. And it is this attack that is made on some 11,000 odd of the very flower of the nation. It is repudiated by some of the most advanced organs of opinion in the Press. I have a copy of the *United Irishman* in my hand, and I think it goes rather further than hon. Members are prepared to go at the present moment. It is somewhat of a Fenian organ, and not at all friendly to the Government. The *United Irishman* regrets the fact that these denunciations had been made, and it declares—

"The Royal Irish Constabulary is a body of Irishmen recruited from the Irish people; bone of their bone and flesh of their flesh. The typical young constabularyman is Irish of the Irish; Catholic, and (as the word goes) Nationalist; the son of decent parents; his father a Home Rule farmer; his mother a Home Rule farmer's daughter; his uncle a patriotic priest; his cousin a nun; his sweetheart the daughter of a local Nationalist District Councillor and patriotic publican; her uncle again being Chairman of the local "League" branch, and the friend of the eloquent and patriotic member for the Division, who asks questions "on the floor" about the young constabularyman's prospects and grievances. The young constabularyman subscribes liberally to the Church; he is smiled on by the Irish clergy; he is smiled on by Irish girls; he is respected by the young fellows of the street corner and the country cross-roads."

But when a debate comes on in this House, the whole Irish National party gets up man after man, and would have

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us believe—of course, we do not believe it, and, of course, they do not believe it—that a considerable number of the Irish constabulary are villains of the deepest dye. All through this sad business I have never—as it is said, two blacks do not make a white—besmirched other police forces by bringing, as I could easily have brought, solitary instances of this character as painful and, shocking. They are known to exist in all large bodies of men; but I say this in defence of the Royal Irish Constabulary, against these unmerited and unsubstantiated slanders, that they are a body of men of whom every Irishman may be legitimately proud. There was some derision on the other side of the House because the *United Irishman* is a physical force paper. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Yes, subsidised by the Government.] In this House hon. Members for Ireland have few good words to say for the physical force party. [An IRISH MEMBER: That is not so.] But the hon. Member for North Kilkenny who seconded the Motion—who only took his seat yesterday, and made a very eloquent speech—when in America was at great pains to explain to his American audiences that really there was that close harmony with the physical force party. Let me quote his words—

"I myself am of opinion that it is always a good thing in Ireland to have not only what is known as the constitutional movement, but to have also in existence a physical force party, even if that spirit is never concreted into action."

He went on to utter sentiments which would fill the right hon. Member for Haddington with despair.

"When we have freedom, then will be the time for those who think we should destroy the last link which binds us to England to operate, by whatever means they think best, to achieve that great and desirable end. I am quite sure I speak for the United Irish League in Ireland."

This attack on the police reminds me, and must remind many in this House, of many former debates. No fact in former debates ever made a deeper impression on my mind than the fact that in 1893 Mr. Sexton, who was then a Member of this House, moved an Amendment to the Home Rule Bill of Mr. Gladstone, in order that an Executive responsible to a Dublin Parliament might remain in possession of a central police force. The

Bill, as drafted, provided for disbanding the Royal Irish Constabulary and for trusting to local forces alone. Mr. Sexton said—

“Pending the final settlement of the land question, there may be disorder in Ireland, there may be agrarian trouble in one county or another, and it may not be expedient for some years to place on the local authorities the responsibility of preserving order.”

The present leader of the Nationalist Party supported that Amendment, and used these words—

“The government of Ireland under an Irish Parliament and an Irish Executive will necessitate for a considerable time the existence of some central police force, which will be quite apart from the local forces that will be created in the different localities. I take the strongest possible view on this question, and when it comes up in another form, on an Amendment by the Prime Minister, I will express my opinion on the other branch of this subject as to whether this force should not be armed and drilled within certain limits.”

The present Prime Minister took notice of that, and of the interesting claim of the hon. Member that it was impossible to govern Ireland, even under Home Rule, unless you had an armed and drilled police force to assist the Executive in protecting liberty and property pending the settlement of the land question. That is part and parcel of all the other incidents which are brought forward, such incidents as prosecutions under what is called the Statute of Edward III. I make no reproach against the right hon. Member for Montrose when I say that in his time he instituted 279 cases of agrarian origin, that in his time he had to proclaim some thirty-nine public meetings, and suppress them by this armed and drilled police force, and that his conduct elicited the most ruthless condemnation from a number of Nationalist newspapers. I do not refer to that as a barren *tu quoque* argument; I do not defend myself against a general impeachment levelled by the hon. and learned Member against the Government by saying that the same kind of thing was said even of the right hon. Member for Montrose Burghs. I do it to show that under any Administration in Ireland, even under an Administration in close alliance with the Nationalist Party and seeking to satisfy it with Home Rule, there is a necessity for a special police force, and there is a necessity, if not for the use of a special law, at any rate for the special use of the law which the right

hon. Gentleman employed. These things lead, and must lead, to collisions between the people and the police, lead, and must lead to such discreditable episodes as that in the Court house of Cork; they are designed to lead to collision between the people and the police; and then each of these instances is taken up and isolated, and magnified not as a symptom of Ireland's unrest, but as the source of it. We are told that if you have no police, no magistrates, the troubles in the country would cease. [Nationalist cries of “No!” and “Whoever said that?”] It has been said over and over again [“Never”!] that it is a great mistake to have a large force of armed and drilled police, that they ought to be, if not disbanded, reduced to narrow limits. It is said that their intervention is uncalled-for and unprovoked, and that if there are collisions it is the fault of the police, and the way in which they are handled under the Government. Let me take one of those incidents, in order to explain, and therefore to defend, the conduct of the Government by tracing it back to its source. Say that a crowd assembles to intimidate some individual with a band and opprobrious cries; it is not a chance crowd—it is one crowd of many, the symptom of an organized evil which was widespread, and, in old days, was significant of far more terrible consequences than now happily ensue, an evil which would have become general unless it had been stopped by the Government by the use of special police and also the use of a special law. That single instance is isolated, and then a contrast is drawn between the government of Ireland and the government of England.

I wish to put this quite dispassionately, and I make this admission. In England, when you have a solitary instance of turbulent and intimidatory action being taken in connection with some local right of ownership or occupation, or with some civil right of employment and personal liberty, on the first occasion there would not be a great number of police on the spot. I read only the other day in the newspapers of a crowd of 2,000 people, who levelled fences and sacked a house because they thought they had a right of way over the ground on which it was built. Again, if any persons were made amenable to the law in England because

they had been guilty of rioting, when first so made amenable they would be leniently treated. But if an organised attempt was made all over England to decide such issues, not by pleadings in Law Courts, not by discussions in this House, but by deliberate turbulence and calculated intimidation, then in England, as in Ireland, the police would have to be multiplied and organised, in England, as in Ireland, the Courts would inflict a heavy penalty, and in England, as in Ireland, the Government as a last resource would have to pass and to employ special legislation. You cannot easily find a complete parallel for the trouble which now exists in Ireland. You find something of the kind on a very small scale if you go back to the Featherstone riots; you find something of the same kind, on a larger scale, if you go back to the Sheffield rattening cases; but to get anything like a parallel in the happier annals of this country you must go back to the Luddites. Most people thought then—everybody thinks now, I suppose—that the Luddites were wrong in thinking they could assist labour by destroying machinery. Most of us on this side of the House think that the Irish agitator is wrong in thinking that he can assist Irish agriculture by expatriating the landlord and condemning the tenants to the roadside. But, in either case, measures for protection and measures for punishment are not dictated by a view of the moral or economical merits or demerits of these controversies which give rise to such excesses; they are dictated by the sole duty of protecting the persons and liberty of citizens of this country, and that plain duty becomes enforced and magnified when the problem attains a large size.

We are charged with being responsible for the trouble in Ireland, because we have not passed a peculiar land law which would solve all difficulties; and therefore it is said that upon us lies the blame. In this country, if legislation of a special character were introduced, in the interests of the community at large, it would be discussed in this House, although it might have to wait a session or two for an opportunity of being discussed; existing rights would be safeguarded, and any attempt to rush this House while that legislation was being discussed, or after it was passed, but

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while it was on its trial, in the direction of going further and faster in disturbing existing rights or hypothecating public credit than the House was prepared to go, would be resisted by almost every single member in this Assembly. That is the cause of all the trouble now, a factitious attempt to rush this House by manufacturing collisions between the people and the police. When these collisions occur, the Government has to call up the reserves which are always there for the protection of society. Each incident is magnified into an act of wanton aggression, and the Government is impeached upon the Chief Secretary's salary. But the blame does not rest on the police, on the magistrates, or on the Government; the blame rests upon those who find it easier to inflame the peasant of Ireland with rhetoric than to persuade this House by argument. It is after all far easier to organise agitation than to master a case for remedial legislation, and to present it in a convincing manner to this House. May I attempt to make that good? The charge against the Government is that it will not proceed in the right direction, or fast enough, with remedial legislation in Ireland. What is going on? Two entirely inconsistent policies of dealing with the Irish land question are thrown at our heads at the same time. Compulsory, immediate, universal purchase is one panacea; I believe that is impossible in itself, but it is certain that it is demonstrably impossible unless you merely content yourself with selling to each occupier the holding he happens to occupy at the moment. The other policy flung at our heads at the same time, however, is that of dividing all the large farms and distributing them among those who are only in the possession of small impoverished holdings. Those two policies cannot be carried out at one and the same moment, and no attempt is being made by hon. Members opposite who feel justified in raising another agrarian agitation in Ireland to give one hour's work to either of these schemes. What are their own views? I may say that one of their newspapers says as much—the *Western News*—the editor of which has been prosecuted and imprisoned in the course of the present year.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the editor of that paper is a Conservative?

MR. WYNDHAM: He called me by many harsh names, but what he said in his paper with regard to the policy of dividing the large farms and distributing them was this—

"It is all very well to say 'divide the gross lands,' but amongst whom are they to be divided? Where are the people? And how are the few we have to be spread out upon the land? What is the United Irish League doing? Has it any lists of men who could be relied on definitely to take up and cultivate small farms successfully? There is a great day's work before the League, if we only knew how to go about it."

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): Is it not the case that he was sentenced to six months imprisonment for writing articles in that paper?

MR. WYNDHAM: In any case I think the Committee will feel that there is some sense in these remarks, and that there is no justification for attacking the Government on the score that it represses agitation. If you start that agitation and carry out a wild-cat scheme without having been at least at the pains to discover whether it is practicable and peaceable, there is no justification for hon. Members to throw these two policies together when in the past they have not shown so much zeal in the cause of land purchase as justifies them in taking up that attitude. We have the hon. and learned Member for Waterford leading a large party in the House and the hon. Member for South Tyrone leading a smaller contingent. I say that neither of these leaders has urged his views on land purchase with a persistency and cogency over so long a period of years as to justify either of them in recommending or palliating disorder started on the ground that the Government is remiss in these matters, and that it is blind to the remedies which are as obvious as they are urgent. Take, first, the leader of the smaller of the two Irish parties who are opposed to the Government.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Every Ulster member, with the exception of the Member for North Armagh, is pledged to compulsory sale.

MR. WYNDHAM: That is an admirable example of the spirit in which the hon. Member conducts this con-

troversy. Supposing that every Member for Ulster is pledged in favour of compulsory sale, does that prove that the denial of this House of a Compulsory Sale Bill is a sufficient reason for palliating an agrarian combination which has destroyed all liberty? Can such attempts at palliation be put forward with any plausibility by an hon. Member who has himself denounced compulsory purchase?

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I never made such attempts.

MR. WYNDHAM: I am bound to quote the language used on this question of compulsory sale by the hon. Member. Speaking at Fivemilestone in 1890, he said—

"Mr. Chamberlain—and, at least, I know his views—is not in favour of universal compulsion. Neither is Mr. Balfour. Rant of this kind is more worthy of the platform of a Kerry moonlighter than of a sober Ulsterman. But, if I liked, I could imitate these reckless orators. I could pledge myself to compulsion. I could extol it as a heaven-born principle. I could tell you that, with it passed, the golden age would return. I could promise it next year, as O'Connell was wont to promise Repeal, and as the Parnellites now promise Home Rule. I absolutely decline to adopt this course. Whether it makes for or against my political future, I will not stoop to tell you lies, to tell you that a thing is possible when I know it to be impossible—to tell you that a thing is rising on the horizon of politics when I know that it is outside the scope of all reasonable or practical politics. This, I hope, is plain speaking."

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I now beg to ask the right hon. Gentleman, is that a proof that I palliate disorder in Ireland?

MR. WYNDHAM: It is not my proof—

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I should say not; it is the opposite.

MR. WYNDHAM: But it is my statement that an hon. Member who denounced the plan as impracticable and unreasonable, palliated disorder in Ireland when he stated that voluntary purchase was a sufficient reason for having an agrarian combination leading to agitation, when he charged the Government with the whole responsibility for this disorder; and because the Government have not found the time to do voluntarily that which he not many

years ago stated to be impossible, on the ground that he would not imitate hon. Members opposite by telling his constituents lies. I must take the leader of the smaller party to a later date. In 1898 the hon. Member made use of words which showed that he was satisfied in all except minor details with the Irish land system of that country. What he said showed that his mind was turning almost exclusively on rent-fixing and the laws affecting tenure, and that progress had been made in the matter of purchase. Every man has a right to change his mind, but he has not a right to attack the rest of mankind, including the Government of which he was recently a member, because it displayed less agility of conscience and belief.

I turn now to the leader of the larger Irish party opposed to the Government, and in order to be quite dispassionate, I will not give my own account of their past attitude on the question of land purchase. I will give the picture drawn by the leader of the smaller party. Referring to the attitude of the Nationalist party on the Land Purchase Bill, the hon. Member for South Tyrone, speaking in the House of Commons on 29th March, 1892, used these words—

“On the 22nd November, 1888, when the House was asked to pass the second five millions, sixty-seven Members of the Irish party voted against the Second Reading of the Bill, and if they had had their way, half the freeholders created under those Acts would now be yearly or judicial tenants. The second Ashbourne Act was passed in spite of hon. Members below the gangway. On the 1st May, 1890, the first Land Purchase Bill came to issue in this House. It was a better Bill in every respect than the Bill of last year, but though it proposed to place at the disposal of the Irish tenant farmers a sum of thirty millions of British credit for the purchase of their holdings, seventy-eight Irish Members—practically a unanimous party—walked into the Lobby against the Second Reading, and sought to deprive the tenants of this great boon. Six months later, on the 3rd December, the Bill which is now the Land Purchase Act was brought before the House, and it proposed to place thirty-three millions of British credit at the disposal of the Irish tenants. Where were the hon. Members then? All of them were in London, but they were occupied in Committee Room No. 15, and only twenty-five of them, headed by the late Mr. Parnell, came down to vote for the Second Reading. The rest abstained from voting.”

That was their attitude on the Land Purchase Bill of 1891, and I would remind the Committee that the regular

Mr. Wyndham.

Opposition of that day, led by the right hon. Member for West Monmouthshire, fought that Land Purchase Bill tooth and nail. Yet those who carried it out, and have since extended its operation, are accused of being so remiss, of being blind to patent and obvious remedies, that for this disorder in Ireland they are responsible, and if they put it down they are criminals at large. I can afford to carry that matter down to a later date. The *Daily Independent* of 29th December, 1898, re-published the following report of an interview with Mr. Redmond by a representative of the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

“By the way, a new land war is spoken of. Will you give me your views on its prospect?”

“Land war! There will be no land war. No league or organisation could bring it about.”

On 20th January, 1900, there was a meeting of the Connaught Directory of the United Irish League in Claremorris.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Are these the same quotations which the right hon. Gentleman has given three times this session?

MR. WYNDHAM: This one will have the charm of novelty. At that meeting Mr. Davitt was chairman. The meeting passed a number of resolutions, one of which said—

“The promoters of this Parliamentary unity have declared that ‘there is no longer any land question in Ireland.’”

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I never said that.

MR. WYNDHAM: These were the words of the resolution proposed by Mr. Davitt, and seconded by the hon. Member for Cork City. If up to 1898 and 1900 you have the leaders of the two Irish parties being soundly taken to task for the urgency of the land question and the feasibility of certain solutions, why are we to be attacked and the Government blamed for trouble in Ireland because our attitude now is what their attitude was then? The whole charge is not only that we are slow or remiss or parsimonious in this matter, but of being blind to remedies which are so simple as to justify agrarian agitation throughout Ireland, which stops all liberty in that country and checks all progress; and when we attempt to deal with the agitation, the whole British rule

is held up to odium as being comparable to the worst phases of despotic administration. This monstrous pretension—the failure on the part of Parliament to deal with the Land question now as a justification for this excess—is brought forward by a party which has day after day been voting with the Government in attempting to give education to Irish children in our large towns. That is an inconsistency of which the hon. Member for South Tyrone has not been guilty. If I turn to the Government's attitude, I can say that, year after year and session after session, we have extended the credit available for land purchase, and we have given more money for administrative work, which is the corollary of any extensive operations. I shall invite the House—I have invited the House—to proceed with purchase at a pace which is consistent with the security of the taxpayer and with efficiency and economy. It is in these circumstances that a land war is to be declared, although its inevitable consequences are known to be destitution for the poorest soldiers that are enlisted, the scaring out of the country of capital and industrial enterprise, and constant friction and collision between the people and the police. An appeal is addressed to the courage of the Irish people, whose bravery has been proved on many a stricken field, and never more conspicuously than during the recent war. But what a sordid enterprise is this chivalrous race invited to undertake: to blow horns at night to frighten people, to bring pressure to bear on the most defenceless of their neighbours!—and all these evils are to go on pending the settlement of the Land question; and of this very idea of settling the Land question I suppose the operations on the De Freyne estate are the best example. That may be taken as the touchstone of the chances of settlement. Pending the settlement of the Land question nothing is to be done; and it is to be settled, so it seems, by a policy of proscription, which, if—Heaven forbid—it is permitted to proceed, must lead by the mere process of exhaustion to the Irish nation's consisting of the solitary figure of the hon. Member for Cork City presiding, like a new Alexander Selkirk, over a wilderness. Mr. Davitt said, at Sligo on July 7, that there were three vital

national necessities—first, a great economical impetus to industrial development; secondly, the cessation of agrarian crime; and, thirdly, a counter-influence to that of emigration. These are fair objects, but they can never be attained by chasing the rainbow and baying the moon. Irishmen of all ranks, and notably the landlords as well as the peasants, desire alike to live in their own country and not to send their children across the sea. The peasants are told, and therefore in part believe, that this can only be compassed by Home Rule. They are told, and some, strange to say, seem to believe, that Home Rule can be won by boycotting their more defenceless neighbours. They are told to go to gaol for that sinister offence, which works as much moral harm on the perpetrator as it inflicts material loss on the victim. They are ordered to ruin their neighbours and to degrade themselves. Others, including many of the commercial and professional classes, whilst yielding to none in national aspiration, and believing that a larger measure of self-government should be accorded, are loyal to the Empire, and view with alarm and disgust the prospect of being placed under the heel of a party which encourages class feuds and social tyranny. Yet others, more justly as we think, hold that the chance of extirpating that evil and averting the calamity of a decreasing population lies, not only in loyalty to the Empire, but also in union with this country and representation in this House. These constitutional questions have been argued, and they may be argued again. On this side of the House we are Unionist. On the other some are Home Rulers, either under existing conditions, or under new conditions which no one has been able to define, still less to create. Each may adhere to his conviction and seek to persuade by argument. But this is certain. There can be no cessation to agrarian strife, there can be no stanching of emigration, there can be no revival of industry, the Union must become intolerable, and any development of self-government must remain impossible unless and until the desolating process of social proscription—with its attendant miasma of apprehension, which penetrates

to and paralyses every nerve centre of national life—be repudiated by the good sense of the people and suppressed by the power of the Government.

*(7.20.) MR. T. W. RUSSELL said the right hon. Gentleman had gone somewhat out of his way to make a direct personal attack upon him. He did not complain in the least, because before he finished his speech he should deal with the actual facts. The right hon. Gentleman had charged him with inconsistency on the question of land purchase. Upon that question he had nothing to conceal. He could have been content with a system of rent fixing if that system had been fairly administered, but he had said all along that what had driven the Ulster tenants into the demand for compulsory sale and purchase had been the maladministration of the Land Acts in the Land Courts. As purchase had proceeded year by year the position had become more intolerable, and any man who ten years ago might have been willing to go on with rent fixing, seeing that 70,000 occupiers had become owners, might without inconsistency say that what had been done for them should be done for all. That was exactly his position. What had been the history of the right hon. Gentleman's own position in connection with the land question? In the session of 1901 the Speech from the Throne promised a Land Bill, but it came to nothing. The Ulster farmers, Unionists almost to a man, asked the right hon. Gentleman to receive a deputation, and he point blank declined. They made a second application, which the right hon. Gentleman again refused. Then the right hon. Gentleman introduced a Bill which he tried to send to a Committee upstairs as non-controversial. Then he stood at that Table and asked the representatives of these tenants to confer with him. Would it not have been better to consult the tenants before he introduced that Bill? The right hon. Gentleman had made an extraordinary statement about his speeches on the De Freyne estate. He said that the right hon. Gentleman had absolutely and intentionally misrepresented what he said. He was as loyal and law-abiding as the right hon. Gentleman himself, and he had no right to use his great position to make a statement of the kind.

Mr. Wyndham.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY.

[19TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES 1902-3.

CLASS I.

1. £45,802, to complete the sum for Railways, Ireland.

CLASS II.

2. £12,377, to complete the sum for Registrar General's Office, Ireland.

3. £10,436, to complete the sum for Valuation and Boundary Survey, Ireland.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

*(9.0.) MR. T. W. RUSSELL, in resuming his speech, said that when interrupted by the Adjournment he had commenced to draw attention to the administration of affairs by the Government in the West of Ireland. His own view was that the situation in the West of Ireland was the main problem which the Government had to face. He thought it was full of danger; he was certain it was full of injustice, and he was quite clear in his own mind that the Government were largely responsible for it. Now, for the last nine years the Government had been pursuing a policy, through the Congested

Districts Board, of which everybody in this House who followed it must approve. That Board was formed in 1891 and it had done much to ameliorate the condition of the peasantry in the West of Ireland. Of late years it had devoted the principal part of its attention to the purchase of land, to the creation of a peasant proprietary, and what he might call the dressing of farms and their enlargement. He had not a word but that of praise and admiration for the action of the Board and of the Chief Secretary as its Chairman, but they quite recently had pursued a policy which had resulted in three things—First of all, the suspension of the Constitution over a great area in Ireland; second, the eviction of tenants, who, notwithstanding what the right hon. Member for South Antrim had said, he maintained, were utterly unable to pay the rents and the costs which had been heaped upon them; and, third, the formation of a Land Trust, which apparently was going to begin a war in Ireland of which no one could see the end. That was a very serious state of affairs. He would put the case historically. The Dillon estate which had been purchased consisted of 90,000 acres. It was to a large extent poor land, reclaimed bog. There were, both on the Dillon and the De Freyne estates, grass lands which must be differentiated from those held by the people. In times past there never was an occasion of want or famine but the pinch was first felt on the Dillon estate, because the people were poor, lived from hand to mouth, and the first pressure brought them to the verge of starvation. Well, that estate was purchased, and he maintained that under all the circumstances that particular purchase was a grievous mistake in policy on the part of the Government. In the first place, it exhausted the whole of the money at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board, for they expended on it something like £300,000. In the second place, in doing so the Board set up an object lesson which had disturbed the whole province of Connaught ever since. It was no answer to him that there was a town land, as the Member for South Antrim had said, in the middle of

that country which had been bought many years ago. In his opinion the purchase of a small town land by the Government, and its re-sale to the tenants, was one thing and the purchase of a whole country-side of 90,000 acres, with 4,200 tenants, was quite a different thing, because it set up an object lesson which could not be mistaken. They had reduced the rents on that estate by 6s. 8d. in the £, and the Government surely could not have expected that a thing like that would produce no excitement. Another thing they had done was to wipe out thousands of arrears—he had heard it stated in the district that it amounted to £20,000—in order to give the people a fair start, and they were now spending large sums in drainage works, and in the repair of houses. Just imagine 4,200 tenants getting their rents reduced by 33 per cent., getting their arrears wiped out, getting their houses repaired and their land drained by this beneficent Government, and then imagine the feelings of the tenants on the neighbouring estates who had got nothing of the kind.

He had been accused by the Chief Secretary that night of palliating the disorder that had occurred in that district; he charged the right hon. Gentleman with having created it. He would put the matter clearly. It was impossible for any body of men sitting in a room in Rutland Square, Dublin, to come to the conclusion that action of that kind would not produce difficulties on the estates round the Dillon Estate. As a matter of course, the whole district was at once roused. What followed? A combination was formed. What for? To pay no rent? Nothing of the kind. The combination was formed to ask from Lord De Freyne the same terms which the Dillon tenants had received from the Government. That was the first request, and it was refused; Lord De Freyne, like the Chief Secretary with the Ulster tenants, even refused to see them when they wished to interview him. Things went from bad to worse, and led to what he thought was a breach of the law, because he had written over and over again that it was an offence for a man to stand on any platform and

advise a tenant not to pay his rent. Let him here point out a curious omission in the brilliant defence of the Chief Secretary. The Constitution was suspended, but who signed the Proclamation suspending it? The Chief Secretary had not a word to say about that. It was signed by Mr. Smith-Barry and Lord Clonbrock, the two men who only a week before had become the leading members of the landlords' conspiracy against the people. They were Members of the Privy Council, and attended the meeting of the Privy Council, but Privy Councillors only attended the meeting of the Privy Council when they were invited. They therefore must have been invited by the Government to attend the Privy Council in order to sign the Proclamation. The Chief Secretary had whirlwinds of abuse for hon. Members opposite, and for himself, but the right hon. Gentleman had not one word to say in defence of an atrocity like that. The Constitution was suspended, men were sent to gaol, and everything went topsy-turvy. He saw the right hon. the Member for Montrose in his place. That right hon. Gentleman would remember that when he was Chief Secretary for Ireland he had to supply the forces of the Crown for evictions in this district. Who assailed him at that time, who described the condition of the tenants, who begged him to stay his hand? His right hon. friend would admit that he was foremost, ten years ago, in pointing out the condition of these poor people, and although he had written columns in the *London Times*, at the request of other people, the right hon. Gentleman had never accused him then, and would not do it now, of palliating disorder. It was only men who had no defence for themselves, it was only men who had sold themselves body and soul to the Irish landlords, it was only men who had gone over bag and baggage to the evictors, who dared to bring such charges against those who were as loyal and as law-abiding as themselves.

Now, as to the position of the tenants. The right hon. Member for South Antrim charged the tenants' solicitor with creating the trouble, and being responsible for the whole

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thing. Fortunately, his hon. friends the Members for North-West Lanark, for Oldham, for Dewabury, and for Orkney, had just come back from a visit to the De Freyne estate, and he hoped they would have an opportunity of stating what they thought of the speech of the right hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member for South Antrim dealt with the question of heaping up the costs on the poor tenants, and said that it was the lawyers that were responsible for that. But might he ask, in all humility, why Lord De Freyne had gone to the Superior Courts at all? In 1887 he remembered that he was humbugged into assenting to what was called the "eviction made easy Clause," by which it was only necessary for the landlord, instead of going to the Superior Courts, to serve a registered letter on the tenant who was a defaulter in his rent, in order to determine his tenancy. Six months after the service of the registered letter, if the arrears of rent had not been redeemed, Lord De Freyne could have got an order from the nearest petty sessions court to put the tenant out of his farm. That was the law. Lord De Freyne could have taken that course at a trifling cost, but instead he went to the Superior Courts, and heaped up costs to the amount of £40 on each tenant—an amount which it was impossible for the tenants to pay. So much for the costs; he would now come to the right hon. Gentleman's statement in regard to rent. He confessed candidly that, along with his hon. friends who accompanied him, he had some difficulty in getting at the facts of the rent. He was quite aware of the possibility of being misled by Irish peasants in regard to the acreage of their holdings, and the rent they were asked to pay. They might be talking about statute acres while the peasants might be talking about Irish acres. His hon. friends opposite would remember that he advised them to go to the agent on the De Freyne estates and get him to tell his side of the story as to the amount of the rents. He himself did not propose to go with them to the agent, for the very good reason that he would have acted upon him like a red rag to a bull, and they would have got no information whatever. But these two stalwart Imperialists,

followers of Lord Rosebery, and therefore having none of the character of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, as described by the Chief Secretary—whose opinion the hon. Member for South Tyrone did not care a rap for—surely ought to have been afforded the information. Lord De Freyne's agent told the hon. Gentlemen that he was prohibited from giving any information about the estate, and referred them to Lord De Freyne. The right hon. Member for South Antrim got his information from the rent office.

MR. MACARTNEY: No, I did not.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he stood corrected. But the right hon. Gentleman in his figures had included not only the arable land of the holdings, but the acres of heather-land adjoining.

MR. MACARTNEY said that he reckoned the arable land only.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that it was all very well to give the average rent per acre of farms, but in these holdings hundreds of acres were such that a spade could not be put into the ground.

MR. MACARTNEY denied that he included commonage in his average. He gave the average rent, and added that the occupier had the free right of grazing over a commonage of six acres. He saw the common, and there was no heather on it at all.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he had seen the land himself, and he had asked man after man there how the rent was paid. He found out that they depended for assistance upon their children in America, and upon English labour. One told him that his daughter had already sent him £20 that year. That was where the money came from. The Chief Secretary had suspended the Constitution in Roscommon in order that Lord de Freyne should be able to seize American money orders for his rent. The Irish Government ought not, in the circumstances,

to have made this tremendous experiment on the Dillon estate. It would have been much safer for them to have gone on with the purchase of small areas and to have left this huge piece of land until something like a final settlement of the Irish land question had been arrived at. By making this experiment they had set up an object-lesson which would stand in spite of anything the Chief Secretary might do. The Attorney General had said that the action of the tenants was perfectly natural.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (MR. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I said it was a perfectly natural outcome of the teaching they had received.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL suggested that that was a new and revised edition of the right hon. Gentleman's speech. The tenants took up their present attitude long before hon. Gentlemen opposite appeared on the scene. They were on the very brink of starvation; the failure of the potato crop meant ruin, and they were dependent on help from America; and, instead of being helped by the Government, battalions of constabulary were sent down. He wanted to make his position clear. He was against all reform by law breaking, and never had a fouler and more untrue charge been made against any man than that preferred against him by the Chief Secretary. He had always maintained that the Irish Members in that House were strong enough to compel justice. The right hon. Gentleman had been two years in Dublin Castle, and he never remembered two years in which less work was done for the country. Never since the days of the Chief Secretaryship of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Thanet Division had there been a man at Dublin Castle more defiant of Irish opinion, more careless of official work, than the present Chief Secretary, and no man had ever messed or bungled things as the right hon. Gentleman had done. In the case of Poor Law appointments, the right hon. Gentleman had been

pressed to appoint a lady as inspector of boarded-out children in Ireland, the majority of whom were Roman Catholics; but, instead of appointing a properly-qualified Roman Catholic lady, he had appointed a Protestant lady, who was a distinguished graduate of the Royal University. What had the Boards of Guardians done? They had shut the door against this lady and refused to give her any information. The Chief Secretary should have looked out for a motherly woman who had children of her own, or he should have appointed a Protestant and a Catholic Inspector. The post was not one for which a graduate of a University was required. There was, next, the case of the Marlborough Street Training College, the pupils of which were lodged in what were practically tenement houses close by a street occupied by disorderly women, where the young men were exposed to danger. It was a locality of the worst description. But it was, no doubt, thought good enough for Presbyterian and Methodist students. Even the Ulster Unionist Members made representations to the right hon. Gentleman, but what did he care for them? They would come to heel as usual tonight, or any other night. But nothing would be done. The right hon. Gentleman had been two years in Dublin. What had he done? Nothing. The late Chief Secretary had blundered through a Land Bill, passed a revolutionary Local Government Bill, and established the Industrial Board, over which Mr. Horace Plunkett presided, but he was recalled to fill an easier post, and the present Chief Secretary was appointed—what to do? To mark time. He could deliver beautiful speeches; but if beautiful speeches could avail, Ireland would be a Heaven upon earth, and the salvation of Ireland would have been achieved centuries ago. It was like bringing coals to Newcastle for the right hon. Gentleman to take his beautiful speeches to Ireland, where they were all born orators. And yet the Chief Secretary, in order to have a shot at hon. Gentlemen opposite, actually quoted from a newspaper which his own Government had suppressed. But they had seen a remarkable sight at the Table when the right hon. Gentleman quoted from the *United Irishman*, a paper which, if he was not mistaken,

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had been suppressed by the Government; and, going from bad to worse, he quoted from a paper edited by Mr. Hastings. He had known that gentleman for thirty years, and he said it was simply absurd to bring quotations from a man of his stamp, even to condemn an opponent. These were the straits to which the Irish Government were reduced. Who else could they quote? Even "the faithful few" from Ulster had been protesting, and declaring that unless the right hon. Gentleman did something for them they could not support his policy.

The right hon. Gentleman had now gone over bag and baggage to the landlords, and it was worth while examining what that really meant for Ireland. At one time Lord Londonderry could control three or four seats on the land question in the county of Down, but he could not control one seat now. He remembered the time when the Hamiltons were supreme in Tyrone, but they could not control a single seat there now. The right hon. Gentleman had sold himself and his Government to a beaten party. He charged the Ulster tenants with sordid motives. What title had he to speak of sordid motives? [A Nationalist Member: "He is a paid patriot."] It was said that this was the result of agitation. There were the agitators on the Benches opposite. Not one of them could be bought; if they could have been, they would have been bought wholesale long ago. Who were those who talked about agitators? Some of the men who had raised that cry in the House had agitated themselves to the bench in the Four Courts, and those who were not there were moving heaven and earth to get there. An agitator got very little in Ireland but broken bones, and the man who denounced the agitator generally agitated himself into a fat situation as soon as he could.

The right hon. Gentleman had talked about him as the leader of a small party in that House. He was nothing of the kind. He found trouble enough in leading himself. He had the fate of Irish leaders in all ages before his eyes, and he was not going to undertake the job. He did not object to the right hon. Gentleman's sneers, and he might sneer away. This House might cheer him,

but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that the tenant farmers would take notice of them. He had not stood out on this Land question because he could gain anything by doing so. Had his action brought him any reward? Had it saved him trouble? It had brought him oceans of trouble. In taking up his position of isolation, in ploughing his lonely furrow, he had no object except to do what one man could to wreck the system that had cursed Ireland for centuries. They talked about sordid motives. What about the class who forcibly captured the holdings of these tenants, evicted them by thousands, and drove them to take refuge in the slums of New York? The representatives of that class had the hardihood to stand up in the House and accuse them of sordid motives. The right hon. Gentleman, in attacking him, had publicly directed the attention of his Catholic constituents to his votes on the Education Bill. Was that fair fighting? As a matter of fact, he himself told his constituents at Whitsuntide that the Government had apparently committed themselves to a protectionist policy, that they had apparently committed themselves to the endowment of religion by means of education in England, and that they had undoubtedly committed themselves to the abolition of Mr. Gladstone's Land Act of 1881: and that he was resolved to oppose all three. His constituents passed a resolution approving his determination, and he had carried out that resolution. As to the views of Orangemen on the Education Bill, he reminded the Committee that the hon. Member for North Down had regularly voted against it. And yet the right hon. Gentleman thought to intimidate him by appealing to his Catholic constituents on the education question! He had acted openly and above board, and he would go through with it and take his chance at the general election, when some of the right hon. Gentleman's friends would have to take theirs. He believed the right hon. Gentleman had that night finally thrown away the scabbard, and had drawn the sword on the Irish people. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of impossible theories. But

Ulster was practically unanimous on this question of land purchase; and did the right hon. Gentleman think he was going to get rid of that force by calling the thing impossible? What did they care about his impossibles? Was it not a fact that these impossibles rung down the centuries—

MR. WYNDHAM: That is a matter for the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL asked if that was the right hon. Gentleman's only objection. They spent 200 millions upon the Uitlanders of South Africa. Could they not give a loan to the Irish tenant to end this long chapter of misery and woe, and to bring peace to this Parliament and to this country; or was this thing to go on for ever and a day? Ever since 1886, when he entered into active political life, he had felt keenly this Irish difficulty. He never had any objection to Home Rule in the abstract, and he had stated over and over again that his objection to Home Rule was the Home Rulers. That being so, what was his objection now? He thanked the Committee for the courtesy they had shown him. Why did he stand today isolated and alone in the Irish representation? He saw a chance in Ulster, and in other parts of Ireland, of bringing together the Irish people, of trying to create a homogeneous people for once, and of trying to get them to agree upon things on which they could agree, and to differ only where they must differ. A man in Irish politics who chose to stand out from his party and to forego nearly all the friends that he had—he did not speak of the pecuniary loss—with the object of trying to unite the Irish people, to teach them that they had a common country worth living for, and interests worth fighting for—the Chief Secretary was not entitled to hold up such a man as an apologist for disorder. Nothing entitled the right hon. Gentleman to speak in that way of him, and he would like him to know that his words would be remembered in Ulster for many a long day to come. He had emptied his whole soul on this question, and he said emphatically that from the day that the Member for Thanet burlesqued in Dublin Castle as Chief

Secretary, since the day that Lord Beaconsfield performed that melancholy joke on the Irish nation, there never had been a man inside the Castle more defiant of Irish opinion, more careless of official work, or who had messed and bungled things as the present Chief Secretary had done.

(10.15.) Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said he would not speak on the important question before the Committee were it not that he himself had been a cultivator of the soil, and had an intimate knowledge of all that concerned land. Further, as it had fallen to his lot to represent a constituency the circumstances of which were similar to those on the De Freyne estate, he had thought it his duty to visit that estate, and to see the condition of affairs there for himself. An Eastern potentate the other day was credited with stating that London was a very nice place, but that he would be glad to get back to civilisation again. Having visited the De Freyne estate, he appreciated the force of that remark. They had heard a good deal about Imperial unity, and how the British Empire was welded into one great harmonious whole. But the De Freyne estate was the black spot in the Empire, and the Empire should be measured by it. Everyone seemed to talk about the landlords and the tenants, but not a word was said about the State. There were, however, to be considered not only the interests of the landlords, and the interests of the tenant labourers, but also the interests of the State. On the De Freyne estate, it was not too much to say that the tenant labourer had done everything, and had created something out of absolutely nothing. He had reclaimed his patch of land, grown his few potatoes and his oats, and now he saw himself about to be despoiled, and that by the worst process of all—the law of the land. Many hon. Members, and certainly a number of people outside the House, when they thought of the tenant labourer in Ireland, compared him with that much more important personage, the English farmer, who drove to market in a smart equipage, and whose wife and children lived in comfort, if not

in luxury. The English farmer went into a farm where everything was built for him, and all he had to do was to devote himself to the cultivation of the soil. When he left, he had nothing to complain of, because he could take away his capital. Compare him with the poor tenant labourer on the De Freyne estate, and on many other estates in Ireland. He had to build his own cabin, reclaim his land, and he did that in the blackest and dreariest months of the year, because in summer he was away in England or Scotland, leaving his wife and children to struggle on as best they could at home. He inquired how these poor people managed to make any money at all; and they told him it was by selling a few eggs at 6d. a dozen, occasionally selling a chicken, fattening a pig, or rearing a calf at the cost of the children's health. He could not understand how it was that a calf was worth half as much again on that estate than it would be worth in Scotland; but it was explained to him that the very best milk was given to the calf, and that only skim milk was given to the children. At the present season of the year, there was scarcely a man left on the estate. They were away working in the fields in England and Scotland; and when they returned they would probably find themselves turned out into the world without a shilling. What wonder was it that the iron of despair had entered into their souls? That was the position of the poor chaps on the De Freyne estate. He had always discounted, to a very great extent, expressions of Irish disloyalty. He had seen too much of the loyal Irishmen abroad not to take those expressions for what they were worth, and as natural ebullitions of temper on the part of men representing these poor tenant labourers.

The question of compulsory purchase had been raised, he thought, in a very extravagant manner, by the hon. Member for South Tyrone, but in an absolutely ridiculous manner by the Chief Secretary. No one with his senses about him would ever propose for a moment that the whole interest of the landlords in Ireland should be turned over to the tenants, and that millions should be expended on that transformation in two or three years. But hon. Members were entitled

Mr. T. W. Russell.

to demand that a system of compulsory purchase should be established, and that the right hon. Gentleman should take power, through the Congested Districts Board, or through the County Councils, to acquire land whenever he thought it right to acquire it. That, and that alone, would solve the great question of the land. It was no new doctrine. Compulsory purchase was in active operation in New Zealand, and, he believed, in other parts of Australasia. There the Government said to the large landowners: "We do not want to confiscate your land; we will pay you the market value; but you must make way for others who want to cultivate the land." We were a nation of shopkeepers, and we would not be making a bad deal for ourselves if we succeeded in turning the poor peasants in Ireland into loyal British subjects. If we did that, it would be a greater conquest than that achieved by the war which had now happily terminated in South Africa. This was not a local question; it was not an English, or even an Irish, question; it was an Imperial question. Wherever one travelled abroad, from the Yukon River down to the plains of Australia, the same complaint was to be found as to treatment of the Irish tenants by the Irish landlords and the British Government. He had a small album of photographs taken on the De Freyne estate, and hon. Members would be surprised at many of the pictures. They would see the hon. Member for South Tipperary, for instance, followed by two policemen, one on each side. Why, his hon. friend, the Member for the Northern Burghs went to his constituents only a month or two ago, and directed the people to break the law and defy the Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member must confine his remarks to Ireland.

MR. BIGNOLD (Wick Burghs) said, as a personal explanation, he must not be taken as having done more than suggest that a test case should be made for the Woods and Forests Department.

MR. CATHCART WASON said he would not pursue that point further. It

was perfectly impossible for him to understand the policy of the Government with regard to land purchase. Where there were disorder and disaffection, they refused to purchase, but where there was no disorder they purchased. That was an incomprehensible attitude to him. But the worst charge was that legal costs had been piled up against the tenants on the De Freyne estate. If that were true, it was simply monstrous. In Scotland the Crofters Commission settled all questions arising between landlords and tenants, and why should not a similar system be adopted on such estates as the De Freyne estate? It was perfectly true, as the hon. Member for South Tyrone said, that the Government themselves were very instrumental in bringing about the present state of affairs on the De Freyne estate by the purchase of the Dillon estate. He thought the Government did a noble work in purchasing the Dillon estate; and if any hon. Member could only see the difference between the people on these two adjoining estates, he would be surprised. The people on the Dillon estate saw a busy, bustling agent looking after them, not to see how much rent he could get out of them, but to see how he could possibly improve their position. Beautiful farm houses of stone were being built, while the De Freyne tenants had still to live in their damp thatched cabins; stables were being built on the Dillon estate, while the cows on the De Freyne estate were still being kept with the children. It was only human nature that the De Freyne tenants should want the same advantages. It was alleged that the United Irish League had other objects besides benefiting the tenants; and that its ultimate object was separation and a National Parliament in Ireland. If that were the ulterior object of the League, then the men who shut their eyes to the state of affairs which he had described, and who wilfully blinded themselves to the facts, were the best friends of the United Irish League.

*(10.36.) **MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe)** said that the question what was the Irish Question had been asked in this House, and out of it, for more than 100 years without ever receiving, he believed, a generally accepted reply. Nearly sixty years

ago, an hon. Member said he wanted someone to tell him what the Irish Question was. Some said it was a political question, others a religious question; and the hon. Member then went on to describe the state of Ireland as it then was, with the shadow of the great famine looming in the near future. He said that Ireland had a starving population, an alien Church, an absentee aristocracy, and the weakest executive in the world. He asked what was the remedy for such a state of things, and they would say that the remedy was revolution, but Ireland was prevented from attempting that by being tied to a stronger country. If, continued the hon. Member, revolution was the remedy, England was responsible, and the duty of English statesmen was to accomplish by constitutional means, what otherwise would be left to revolution. The hon. Member who uttered these sentiments was Mr. Disraeli. He was challenged years afterwards as to whether he adhered to that statement, and he replied that, although he spoke with a freedom from responsibility, yet, nevertheless, the sentiments he expressed were true. Since then the alien State Church had been disestablished, and, speaking generally, the population could not be said to be overcrowded, inasmuch as it had been reduced by the most awful devastation by one-half. There was, however, along the fringe of the Atlantic seaboard districts where the inhabitants maintained a precarious existence, eking out by money earned in the English harvest fields and by domestic service in New York. The richest of the landlords resided in another country; the best of the Irish produce was exported to pay rent; and the Irish executive was still the weakest in the world, because it proceeded from force and not from the good will of the people. What was the Irish Question? was still being asked; and it was being answered according to the experience, the prejudice, or the ignorance of the person making the reply. He recently met two authorities on the Irish Question. One, with that assurance of certainty which appeared to be the appanage of all Englishmen said, "If you knew Ireland as well as I do, you would know she would be perfectly content were it not for these confounded agitators."

Mr. Tomkinson.

That included every Irish Member on that side of the House, and the hon. Member for South Tyrone on the other. The other authority, with equal certainty, said that the Irish did not care a jot for Home Rule or self-government. When he pointed out that five-sixths of her representatives demanded that reform in the Constitution, he replied that that was due to priestly dictation; and when he was reminded that the leader of every great Irish movement, with a single exception of O'Connell, was a Protestant, he appeared to be struck, but was not altogether convinced of his error. He then proceeded to advance the astounding theory that Ireland was still overcrowded, and that her population should be still further reduced. If the average Englishman were asked today what was the Irish question he would reply something after this fashion: "The Irish are a discontented, turbulent people. It is impossible to govern them according to ordinary methods; they have to be governed by force; and I would put the leaders and the agitators under lock and key." That was a very easy and convenient method of solving an awkward problem, and shifting responsibility from the shoulders of the Government on to the shoulders of its victims. It was what John Stuart Mill called the "vulgar" method. No one had written more forcibly or more convincingly on that subject than the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the University of Dublin. He would refer to only one other authority, who would commend himself very largely to hon. Gentlemen opposite. One of the most distinguished men who ever sat on the Conservative side of the House, in discussing the Irish Question forty years ago, asked why it was that a country with such a fertile soil, so favourable a climate, and other advantages, lagged so much behind England in the race for wealth. It could not be attributed to Celtic blood; the experience of certain parts of France proved that. It was not because of the peculiarity of the Catholic religion; because in Belgium there was a people singularly industrious and prosperous, who yet were distinguished for their adherence to the Catholic faith. It could not be because the Irish people listened to agitators; because in America the same thing happened, but it could not be said

that the American people were unsuccessful. There was only one thing, said this authority, peculiar to Ireland, and that was the Government of England. That authority was Lord Robert Cecil, now Marquess of Salisbury, four times Prime Minister of England. The Chief Secretary had every quality of eloquence, genius, and sympathy; it was only because the situation was an impossible one that he failed in bringing it to a successful issue. The present was not the time to discuss the question of Home Rule, but it was a most extraordinary thing that the one policy which had never failed to allay discontent, avert separation, and elicit loyalty and goodwill, was the one and only policy that we persistently refused to apply to Ireland. One of the great difficulties had been the Land question, but he was convinced that we had now gone so far along the one road that there was no possible halting-place, and that there must be an entire transfer from the landowners to occupying owners; but whenever that transfer took place there ought to be the fullest and most generous measure of justice dealt out to the Irish landlords. All would agree that the debate had been a most painful one. It was terrible to think that such a state of things as that disclosed by the Sheridan case could possibly exist. It would be unjust to bring an indictment against the police on that one case, but it was impossible to believe that that could be the only case, and that there might not have been others which, although less in degree, were nevertheless of a serious nature.

(10.50.) COLONEL SAUNDERSON said the saying that times changed and we changed with them might apply to other countries, but it certainly was not true of Ireland. This debate was repeated year after year, and a useful debate it was, as it gave to Irishmen on both sides of the House the opportunity annually of attacking the policy of the Government. The object of hon. Members opposite in such a debate ought, he maintained, to be to show that the government of Ireland in the past had been unsuccessful. In his opinion it would have been better for the Nationalist Members, from their point of view, to have concentrated the attention of the House and the country

upon the misery and poverty and the want of progress in Ireland which they alleged. But, instead of that, they had fixed the gaze of the country upon a man named Sheridan. Sheridan unquestionably was a scoundrel, who deserved to be hanged, and he was only sorry he had not been; but the fact that Sheridan existed was not a sufficient ground for impugning the government of Ireland by England. No attempt had been made to show that the condition of Ireland was a proof of want of success on the part of the House in governing that country. Instead of taking the whole of Ireland, one particular part—the De Freyne estate—had been taken, and it had been urged that the condition of the tenants on that estate was intolerable. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had suddenly fallen in love with the Members for Cork and Mayo. That, of course, was a matter of taste. But he was surprised to read a speech of the hon. Member in which he declared that the opinion he had formerly entertained of the Nationalist Members was entirely wrong, and that the years he had spent in attacking them would have been better employed in slanging the landlords. So sudden and grave a change of view rather shook his faith in the solidity of the political opinions of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. Hon. Members had sought to fasten the eyes of the Committee and the country upon the De Freyne estate. The question which the Committee had to ask itself was whether the present condition of that estate would have existed if the tenants had been left alone. It was hard for English, Scottish, or Welsh Members to realise the condition of affairs on that estate. From some observations which had been made, it might be imagined that tenants were ground down, tyrannised over, and robbed by their landlords. But no Irish landlord, however drastic or avaricious, had the power of raising rent 1s. a year; the rent was fixed by a tribunal appointed by the State. The original rents all over the country had been reduced by that tribunal to the extent probably of 35 per cent., so that it was absurd to call it the “landlords’ friend.” The tenants on the De Freyne estate might be very poor, but their condition was probably a more desirable one than that of the inhabitants of crowded lodgings in the East-end of

London. There was clear proof that the De Freyne tenants had been chosen by a political party for political purposes. In order to carry out their objects this party were obliged to enlist the sympathy of the British people. In order to enlist the sympathy of the British people there must be martyrs — someone suffering for the cause of Ireland's freedom and prosperity. In former times the Nationalist Members supplied the martyrs, and at one time they were nearly all in gaol. But since then they had apparently become tired of making martyrs of themselves, and so martyrs were made by choosing an estate whose landlord was too weak and impecunious to fight his battle with success, and the tenants were induced by the leaders of the Nationalist party to relinquish their farms, to go on the roadside, and become evicted tenants. That this was a spontaneous action on the part of the De Freyne tenants he absolutely denied. He quoted the instance of a tenant, who was the rural postmaster, asking a conference to allow him to pay his rent, because, if evicted, he would lose £1,500. This conference was presided over by the Vice-Chairman of the Roscommon County Council, and it decided that this tenant's case was common with the others, and that he should accept the consequences of paying rent. Everyone knew what that meant, for there was no crime at all comparable in Ireland to that of paying rent. The consequences would have been that this man would be boycotted and probably ruined. Of course this unfortunate man gave in. Then there was the case of a Dr. M'Dermott, who paid his rent, the conference being asked to declare that his dispensary appointments were vacant.

MR. TULLY: Is the right hon. and gallant Member aware that there is not a word of truth in that statement?

COLONEL SAUNDERSON said he did not know that that was the case, but at any rate he thought it was as true as any contradiction which the hon. Member might offer. At any rate he gave the extract from the newspaper, where it was stated that advertisements would be

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issued for another medical officer in Dr. M'Dermott's place. Therefore the United Irish League claimed the right to discharge and appoint officers under the County Council on political grounds. There were many other cases of a similar kind, where the United Irish League not only claimed the right to decide payment of rent, but also the appointment of men to various offices under the County Council. Take the case of this man he had mentioned, who was practically fined £1,500. What would happen to him? He would probably drift down in the social scale, and at last he might find refuge in this House as a Member of Parliament. He should like to hear from English and Scottish Members who ran over on tour to Ireland some definite statement on the question whether Ireland, as a whole, was progressing, standing still, or going back. Taking the test of the deposits in the joint-stock banks, he found that in 1881 the deposits amounted to £31,161,000, and in 1901 to £41,568,000, while the deposits in the savings banks had increased during the same period from £3,765,000 to £10,500,000.

The position of the Irish tenantry was unquestionably far in advance of what it ever was in former times. What was the opinion of this agitation on the De Freyne estate held by one of the Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church? The Bishop of Elphin, in a published letter, lamented that "strangers and paid organisers should be sent into that district, involving the unfortunate tenant farmers in so much difficulty and costs," and "protested against those strolling organisers who were only thinking of the salaries they could extract from their dupes, and not in the interests of the people." The Bishop added that he had learned from one of his priests, who had seen the hotel bill of one of these paid organisers for a month, and it amounted to £50. That was the calm deliberate opinion of a Roman Catholic Bishop in Ireland as to this agitation. Not only had an attack been made upon the Government during this debate, but strong expressions had been used with regard to religious differences which existed in Ireland, and which it was alleged made the government of that country so

difficult. Naturally the Orange organisation felt itself very hardly used by the Chief Secretary for Ireland when such a meeting as that which it was proposed to hold at Rostrevor was prohibited. It was impossible to ignore in these matters the condition of public opinion in Ireland, which was not divided by political lines of demarcation, because the lines which divided the Irish people was something far wider and deeper than any of those political liberties which existed in this country. On the one hand, they had a minority in Ireland and it was represented practically by the great Orange organisation. This was not understood on this side of the water, and here people asked what was the use of having an Orange organisation simply to perpetuate the memory of things which occurred 250 years ago. That was not the object of this organisation. He had been an Orangeman for many years and had attended many meetings, but he had never heard on Orange platforms anything said of an insulting character to a religion of their opponents. The great majority of Orangemen were well disposed towards their fellow countrymen, and they had no desire to insult their religion.

The Orange organisation had two objects. He wished to state first of all that it was not a secret society. One of its objects was to uphold the Protestant faith, and the other to maintain the supremacy of the British Crown. In Ireland they never heard the word "Imperial" mentioned and did not know what it meant until an attempt was made to break the bonds which connected Ireland with this country. Then they realised that the word meant something for Orangemen who had one great object in view, and it was not simply a selfish object for they had a far higher aim, namely to maintain the unity of the British Empire. Therefore when the Government prohibited a meeting such as that which was proposed to be held at Rostrevor, Orangemen looked upon it as very harsh treatment. Meetings were held in all parts of Ireland by hon. Gentlemen opposite at which sentiments were uttered which, he believed, were hateful to the great majority

of the British people. The hon. Gentlemen opposite professed openly to be not the political opponents of the Government but the undying enemies of the British Empire. If the Nationalist Party had consulted him as to the line of policy which would be ruinous to their cause, he could not have advised them to follow a better course for that purpose than that which they had pursued themselves. Let them think what a strain they must have put on the political digestion and conscience of their Radical friends above the gangway. They had had two opportunities. When the Local Government Act was passed they had an opportunity of showing that they meant what they said when they promised, on the introduction of Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill, that they would treat the minority with justice and fairness. But instead of that they turned out and refused to elect a single Unionist in all Ireland where they could prevent it. That was the sort of treatment the opponents of these gentlemen would receive in a Home Rule Parliament. They had another opportunity in the war. From the moment war was declared, they took the side of our opponents, rejoiced in their victories, gloried in their triumphs, and their branches in Ireland used all their influence to prevent a single Irishman enlisting in the British Army. One thing they could not do; they could not prevent Irish soldiers in South Africa writing on the roll of fame a name which would never be forgotten. In dealing with the Orangemen the Government should remember these two qualities. They were loyal to the Crown. They desired to preserve the Union with Great Britain and at their meetings no disloyal sentiment was ever uttered; and when a

meeting was proposed in the great county of Down, a loyal organisation had a right, as any one in this country would have the right, to go to any sea-side place, to go to Rostrevor and proclaim even in the ears of a National majority, loyalty to the Crown and to the laws on which the prosperity of Ireland depended. He deeply regretted that his right hon. friend had felt it necessary to proclaim that meeting; and he thought the result of the debate would be that the House, in dispassionately considering, and the country in considering the case made against the Government, and by which hon. Members opposite hoped to prove the incapacity of Parliament to bring about the peace and prosperity of Ireland, would feel that that case had fallen to the ground. The verdict of the House and the country would be that under the authority and power of the British Parliament the prosperity of Ireland would be finally assured.

* (11.35.) MR. HAVILAND-BURKE (King's County, Tullamore) said the speech the Committee had just heard contained painful reminders of the tone and temper of the speeches of fifty years ago. The right hon. and gallant Member had raised an Orange wail as to the suppression of an Orange meeting, but had no regard for the suppression of National meetings all over Ireland. The right hon. and gallant Member had appeared as a great devotee of a distinguished Catholic Bishop in Ireland at one end of his argument, and at the other end he seemed to regard the Catholic clergy of Ireland as being turbulent and disloyal to the core. He did not think that was a consistent position for an honest Orangeman to take up in

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this House or outside. The right hon. and gallant Member ought to take his stand one way or the other. With regard to the right hon. and gallant Member's complaint in regard to the manner in which County Council elections were conducted in Ireland by the Nationalists, it was ghastly hypocrisy for anybody on the Conservative Benches to make a point against Nationalists on that ground, when it was remembered that in nine cases out of ten in England, County Council and municipal elections were fought on the strictest party lines. They did not want to be preached to on the subject of tolerance by Unionist gentlemen who in this country made the local elections a matter of political test, or by Orangemen like the hon. and gallant Gentlemen who, in their own districts, where they were supreme, would not give so much as the post of scavenger to any Catholic or Nationalist if they could possibly avoid it. He must say that he approached a debate of this kind with something like a feeling of sheer hopelessness. If anybody were to tell him of a Home Secretary condoning and compounding a felony and assisting to escape from this country a police sergeant of Glasgow, London, or Cardiff, who had provoked outrage and committed crime, he would say that the thing was impossible. An English Home Secretary who attempted any double dealing and paltering with the law in that way would not be able to hold his office for a month. But the moment they came to deal with an Irish grievance a sort of moral colour blindness seemed to descend on the great majority of Members of this House. What was wrong in England was right in Ireland. What was black in England was white in Ireland. When the Irish Members raised the question there was a

most ostentatious demonstration of indifference on the opposite side of the House. The Chief Secretary was supposed to stand for law and order in Ireland. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman what was the favourite pretence—he maintained a false pretence—for enforcing the Coercion Acts and abolishing trial by jury? It was that there was difficulty in getting the people of the countryside to supply the necessary evidence and to tell the truth. The Chief Secretary's main line in his defence was that the police force in this particular instance was so demoralised that his only chance of getting honest evidence from policemen was to give an indemnity, and to let the chief criminal go scot free. He maintained that if such a state of affairs existed in the Irish police force it should have been the duty of the right hon. Gentleman, on his honour and responsibility, to break it down, and on no account whatever to offer the stimulus of an indemnity or the stimulus of immunity to any policeman, as the price of that policeman telling the truth to his superiors. He (Mr. Haviland - Burke) was one of the defendants in the De Freyne case, and he would not go into the agrarian question which had been raised tonight. He was one of the wicked agitators of whom they had heard so much in the course of this debate. The right hon. Member for South Antrim gave away Lord de Freyne very conspicuously when he said that the people on the estate were well off. In an interview with a representative of the *Morning Leader* Lord de Freyne said—

“It was a mistake to call them Irish peasants. They are only English labourers living in Ireland because it is cheap.”

That was Lord de Freyne's definition of his tenantry, given to the representative of an English paper. He

did not condescend to recognise them as Irish people at all. They were poor beggars of English labourers coming over to England to earn the rent which they could not make for themselves at home. What could be more absurd in the face of a statement of that kind than the contention of the right hon. Member for South Antrim as to the economic conditions on the De Freyne state? He respectfully warned the right hon. Gentleman of the gravity of the task which he had taken up. In Ireland, as in any other place in the world, punishment lost all its sting if it brought no disgrace with it. In Ireland, to be sent to jail for addressing a meeting meant absolutely no disgrace whatever. If at the conclusion of the session he received marching orders to go and address a proclaimed meeting he would go to that meeting, and if necessary he would do his three or six months if the right hon. Gentleman liked, and he would come out feeling that he was as good a man as any hon. Member opposite, and better, he might say, than some of them. He warned the Chief Secretary that no punishment would deter him or his friends from doing their duty.

*(11.50.) MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.) said he desired to associate himself entirely with the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh and his right hon. friend the Member for South Antrim in regard to the policy pursued by the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary in proclaiming the meeting of Orangemen at Rostrevor. He did not wonder at the storm of indignation which had been aroused by this action throughout the whole of the province of Ulster. What the people wanted to know was why was that meeting

at Rostrevor proclaimed whilst only a few weeks ago the Government permitted, without interference of any kind, a mass meeting of Nationalists and members of the United Irish League, held in the city of Armagh for the purpose of unveiling a memorial to a man who died fighting for the Boers. Mr. Davitt and other well-known agitators attended that meeting, and delivered inflammatory speeches brimming over with disloyalty. The whole place was turned into a pandemonium, and the police made no attempt to interfere with the meeting. Was it any wonder that the loyal men of the North were indignant at this inequality of treatment? The Chief Secretary had stated that he could not, in the face of the opposition which was threatened by the Nationalist Party, proceed with the Land Bill which was introduced early in the session. He would respectfully point out that there were other Members from Ireland besides the Nationalist Party. He would like to inform the right hon. Gentleman that there were twenty Unionist Members from Ireland who were not sent here to waste the time of Parliament pressing for legislation of an impracticable or impossible character, but to support common-sense measures that would be of genuine and practical benefit to the country. Seeing that the right hon. Gentleman had practically consented to drop the controversial Clause 36, he was convinced every one of the Unionist Members was ready to give the Bill hearty support. He was unable to understand the Chief Secretary being deterred from proceeding with a bill which would do so much to facilitate occupying ownership of land, simply because the Nationalist Party was opposed to it. That Party opposed legislation of every kind that did not issue

Mr. Lonsdale.

from its own ranks. It was time the Unionists of Ireland, who were loyal to the Throne and the Constitution, received some consideration at the hands of the Government. Speaking for the farmers of his constituency, he would say that now the Government had dropped Clause 36 they would welcome the Bill as an evidence of the intention of the Government to make some effort to settle this interminable Irish Land Question. While too much could not be expected at a time when the financial resources of the country were so severely strained, he believed that the more voluntary sale was assisted by a measure such as the Bill recently introduced, the nearer at hand would be the time when the happy despatch would be given to dual ownership by the passing of a compulsory enactment. He trusted, therefore, that the Chief Secretary would proceed with the Bill despite every opposition. If the Government, with its large majority, permitted all legislation to depend upon the will of the hon. Member for Waterford and his followers, and refrained from pressing this measure, which was just as important to Ireland as the Education Bill was to England, because it was opposed by the Nationalists, they could not expect to receive from the Unionists of Ireland that amount of support which they had consistently rendered in the past.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Dillon*)—put, and agreed to.

Resolutions to be reported tomorrow Committee also report progress; to sit again tomorrow.

Adjourned at five minutes after
Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 24th July, 1902.

NEW PEERS.

Victor Albert Francis Charles, Lord Churchill, K.C.V.O., having been created Viscount Churchill of Rolleston, in the county of Leicester, was (in the usual manner) introduced.

Algernon Bertram Freeman-Mitford, C.V.O., C.B., having been created Baron Redesdale of Redesdale in the county of Northumberland, was (in the usual manner) introduced.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAMWAYS (EXTENSION) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.].

Bill read 3^a (according to order).

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH): The whole of the Amendments to this Bill which stand in my name are, with one exception, merely of a drafting character. The one Amendment which does not come in this category has been asked for by the Postmaster General, and it provides that in the case of the tramways set up under this provisional order the Post Office shall have the same right to contract for the conveyance of mails on those tramways as they have under the Act of 1893.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 11, page 10, at the end of the Clause to insert as a new Sub-section: 'The provisions of the Conveyance of Mails Act, 1893, with respect to the conveyance of mails on tramways by tramway companies shall apply to the conveyance of mails by the company by means of any vans employed by them for the carriage of parcels on roads.'"—(Lord Balfour of Burleigh.)

Amendment agreed to.

Drafting Amendments agreed to.

Bill passed and sent to the Commons.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (SUBWAYS AND TRAMWAYS) BILL.

The King's consent signified, and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

VOL. CXI.

[FOURTH SERIES.]

POST OFFICE SITES BILL,

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

Reported without Amendment.

GARSON AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC SUPPLY (TRANSFER) BILL.

Reported with Amendments.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (TRAMWAYS AND IMPROVEMENTS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

CAVEHILL AND WHITEWELL TRAMWAYS BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed and returned to the Commons.

LONDON, TILBURY, AND SOUTHEND RAILWAY BILL,

WHITECHAPEL AND BOW RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; further Amendments made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

ABERDEEN SUBURBAN TRAMWAYS ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

BRYNMAWR AND WESTERN VALLEYS RAILWAY (VESTING) BILL,

LANCASHIRE AND YORKSHIRE RAILWAY (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 6.) BILL,

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (LICENCES) (IRELAND) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order); The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made; Standing Committee negatived; Report of Amendments to be received to-morrow.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

**PORTPATRICK AND WIGTOWNSHIRE
JOINT RAILWAY ORDER CONFIRMA-
TION BILL.**

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a, to be printed, and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899), deemed to have been read 2^a and reported from the Committee. (No 162.)

RETURNS REPORTS ETC.

NATIONAL EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Annual report of the Commissioners for the year 1901.

**CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
(IRELAND).**

Report of the Board, for the year ended 31st March, 1902.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Forty-sixth report of His Majesty's Commissioners; with appendix. Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

**SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868 (ORDERS FOR
FISHERY GRANTS, 1901-1902).**

Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1868.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

Orders made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, dated 14th July, 1902, applying:—

I. Section 116 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1902, to factories and workshops in which the making of (1) Locks, latches, and keys; (2) Chains, anchors, and cart gear; is carried on.

II. Sections 107 and 108 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to factories and workshops in which the making of chains, anchors, cart gear, locks, latches, and keys is carried on.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Trade Report: Annual Series.

No. 2860. Russia (St. Petersburg);

No. 2861. Portugal (Chinde);

No. 2862. China (Canton).

AGRARIAN OUTRAGES (IRELAND).

Return for the quarter ended 30th June, 1902.

**IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PRO-
CEEDINGS).**

Return for the month of March, 1902.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN TRADE.

Memorandum on the comparative statistics of population, industry, and commerce in the United Kingdom and some leading foreign countries.

PETITION.

LICENSING BILL.

Petition in favour of; of the Good Templars of Nottingham; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

LICENSING BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee, to be received on Monday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 159.)

**PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION
BILL [H.L.].**

A Bill for the better prevention of Corruption, was presented by the Lord Chancellor; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 160.)

**NEW FOREST (SALE OF LANDS FOR
PUBLIC PURPOSES) BILL,**

**COMMONS REGULATION (SODBURY)
PROVISIONAL ORDER BILL.**

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

**EDUCATION ACT, 1901 (RENEWAL)
BILL.**

Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 161.)

COOPERS HILL COLLEGE.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY asked the Under Secretary for India what the Secretary of State intended to do with Coopers Hill College, whether he would take any steps to secure fair play in India to the Coopers Hill men, and whether, now that the college was almost entirely devoted to the military and engineering instruction of British and Colonial students, the Secretary of State, as guardian of the interests of the Indian taxpayer, would claim a refund by the British Exchequer to India of the cost of Coopers Hill College. The noble Lord said that the Government of India was entirely disconnected from His Majesty's Government. The expenses of the India Office were paid for by India, and

therefore he did not see that there was anything to prevent His Majesty the Emperor of India from continuing the Secretary of State for India in office after the other Members of the Government had given up their seals, except the fact that the English Treasury was continually sponging on the Indian Exchequer, which perhaps made it necessary that the Secretary of State for India should always change with the Government. He might have visited Coopers Hill, and been introduced to the President, but for the sake of freedom of speech he had not done so, because on one occasion after a long conversation with the late Lord Beaconsfield on the subject of his book "Lothair," Lord Beaconsfield had said something in confidence, and afterwards he (Lord Stanley) did not remember what point was said in confidence, and so felt tongue-tied as to the whole conversation. He was aware that the noble Earl the Under Secretary would give a negative answer to the last Question on the Paper, but the noble Earl would have to prove that India still had an interest in the college. Some history of the college might be gathered from the speeches delivered by its presidents and by Secretaries of State for India at the yearly public day of the college in July, when a portion of the students left at the end of the course of study; and he desired as much as possible to confine his remarks to their testimony. The college was founded under the auspices of the Duke of Argyll; it was sufficient to say this to establish that the college was intended for the benefit of India and with a view to economy. He could not help thinking that the best way to make engineers was to adopt the method in vogue in the case of architects and lawyers, and place them in the office of a man who was already eminent in the profession; but, as it was, a college was decided upon. In 1875 Lord Salisbury expressed his satisfaction, and that of all those connected with the college, at the successful results achieved, but complained, in the course of his remarks, that some of the students thought, when they had once got to India, that all their exertions were over, and that they had nothing to do but repose on their laurels. The speeches of

Lord Salisbury were the best in the collection, for he took more trouble than any other Secretary of State to go into detail, his knowledge of railway management enabling him the better to understand the subject. Lord Salisbury said—

"Whereas very great proficiency is shown in the knowledge of Buddhist and Hindoo architecture, the same proficiency is not shown in estimating the value of bricks and mortar. Now, far be it from me to say a word indicating the faintest disrespect for Buddhist and Hindoo architecture, but in the relation to the Government of India in which I happen to stand, you will, perhaps, pardon me if I attach more importance than you seem to do to the excellence of estimates in architecture, because I attach importance to the exercise of that economy of which accurate estimates are the foundation."

Other complaints of a similar nature had been made of the want of knowledge of the first rules of arithmetic on the part of these students. In 1881, the noble Duke the Lord President of the Council, then Lord Hartington, in announcing the throwing open of the college to the kingdom at large, said of the college that—

"It had been entirely dependent on India, and it had given back to India almost all the men it had drawn to that institution. Circumstances had rendered it necessary to reduce the number of engineers to be sent out from this branch of the public service for some time to come. . . . The college had taken a step this year in the direction of independence. It had now a Board of Visitors, among whom were some of the most distinguished engineers of the present day. . . . The college was now about to invite to its walls all comers, and would offer to the kingdom at large, and the colonies, as well as to India, the opportunity for securing a training in that institution,"

This measure was good, so far as it went, to increase emulation, and to maintaining a full number of students. The noble Duke went on to say that it would be a source of great regret to him if the reduction in the number of appointments in India, hereafter to be offered to the students, should cause a cessation of the connection between the college and the Indian Public Works Department. The noble Duke also said he felt some wonder that the students had time for anything else but to be examined. Lord Salisbury had also commented several times on the effects of over-pressure put upon students. In July, 1881, a teacher of Hindustani ceased to be employed at the college, and the last examination in Hindustani and Indian history was held in July, 1882. This was a greater

breach with India and Indian interests than the opening of the college to all comers. It would not do for those who managed the college to shelter themselves under Lord Salisbury's words in 1875—

"Hindustani, it had been said, opened up the path between the English and the natives of India; that was all very well, but not so to have an explosion of anger in Hindustani. . . . All who went out must remember that on them was reposed a vast responsibility."

There was no doubt that Hindustani did contain a great number of very bad expressions in the way of oburgation, but, if that was the reason for ceasing to teach Hindustani, why did the authorities not fall back on Persian, which was not open to this objection, and was spoken by educated people in Northern India? It was a language worth studying for its literature, and it would be a stepping stone to acquiring Hindustani. The India Office represented some of the best and many of the worst qualities of the Anglo-Indian. Two years ago the Secretary of State limited the appointments of Indian students to two a year; they could not call that keeping up the college for the sake of the India Office. At the last public day—in 1900—the President of the College, Colonel J. W. Ottley, R.E., said that fifteen students had received commissions that year in the Royal Artillery, and he advocated offering a couple of Royal Engineer commissions annually, in addition to half a dozen commissions in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Colonel Ottley also mentioned that the training of telegraph students at Coopers Hill had been severely criticised by the authorities in India. That seemed to have been the principal defect in the instruction. The India Office had stated two years ago that the students at Coopers Hill were insubordinate. He thought Colonel Ottley deserved to be congratulated on the fact that he had been President of the College for two years, during which no complaint of insubordination had arisen. Coopers Hill College compared favourably in this respect with Sandhurst, which had a bad reputation long before the recent case of incendiarism. He suggested that the President of Sandhurst should be retired; that Colonel Ottley, who had done so well at Coopers Hill, should succeed him; and that an old Coopers Hill man, Mr. de Winton,

Lord Stanley of Alderley.

who had been promoted to the chief engineering position under the Madras Government, and whose appointment was referred to by Lord Wenlock at the Annual Meeting in 1898, should be appointed President of Coopers Hill College. Mr. de Winton was a civil engineer and not a military man, which would be an advantage. He would say in passing that he thought the thanks of the country were due to the Duke of Northumberland and to Lord Hampden for their recent protests against the methods of militarism, and for upholding civil justice. He hoped the noble Earl would be able to give some information on the subject of forestry. In 1894 Lord Reay, the then Under Secretary, advised the engineers and foresters to endeavour to carry the people with them, and he said—

"The engineers could not execute any work satisfactorily unless they had the support of the native officials; the foresters would find among the people, even those who could not read and write, a most astounding knowledge of the nature of the forests."

Lord Wenlock, speaking in 1898 in the absence of the Secretary of State, said great tact and skill would be required by those who joined the forestry, and their zeal would probably be cooled by the collector, who would have to consider the ideas of the natives who cared more for their cattle than for the forests. He (Lord Stanley) had consulted two ex-Bengal civilians, who told him that there was as much to be said for as against the forestry laws; but, in a letter he had recently received on the subject, from an ex-official from another part of India, the writer described the Forestry Department as a necessary evil, and the most hated of any throughout India. This was owing to this Department aiming at making money, its cutting off the villagers and their cattle from the springs and employing people other than local men who oppress the villagers and levy blackmail from them. He thought that Mr. Groom, the Professor of Botany at Cooper's Hill was too good for the place and for foresters, and that he should be offered the post of Director of Kew Gardens on the next vacancy. Asked what he thought about the Coopers Hill men, the writer said he had known many of them in India, and they were most enthusiastic in their profession. It could not be asserted

with any appearance of truth that the College had had that beneficial effect on the Indian Public Works Department that its founders had a right to expect. The construction of the Bengal Railways, even of the most recent, and the consequent floods and malaria close to Calcutta, proved how defective the engineering had been. He believed that the cause of this had been that the Coopers Hill men had never had fair play, and that they were kept down and kept out of all more responsible appointments by the Royal Engineers. In 1886, the President, Sir A. Taylor, compared the training of the Royal Engineers with that of the Coopers Hill men; their preliminary education was not the same. The general drift of opinion was in favour of the Coopers Hill men, as far as regarded their preliminary training; but, on the other hand, it was said that the Royal Engineers could, in consequence of their strict military training, be more fully relied on for carrying out their orders. In some cases, such as insufficient outlets for rain water, remonstrance with headquarters might be better than military obedience. One way of giving the Coopers Hill men fair play and an opportunity of showing what they could do, would be to employ them on work that was much needed, the increase of accommodation for third class passengers at many of the stations of the State Railways. Such work would test not only their skill in building, but also their capacity for attending to estimates and contractors' figures.

He was sorry Lord Reay was not present. If he had been, he would have asked him why he expressed joy at the fact that Coopers Hill students had not been hampered by the study of any Latin. Cicero's Oration against Verres, and Juvenal's Satire on Proconsuls, would be useful to Indian officials. He contended that it would be grossly unjust to charge India with the cost of the college, and then to make use of it for other than Indian purposes, especially now that Lord George Hamilton had so reduced the appointments of native Indian engineers, and that in 1900 the President announced that fifteen students had received commissions in the Royal Artillery, and that the Indian

Public Works Department had received so little benefit from the college. The Secretary of State could plead the great amount of work he had to get through as an excuse for not attending the public day at Coopers Hill College this year; but, in that event, he hoped the noble Earl the Under Secretary would be charged with the duty, and that, in his speech, he would state how many Indian students were now to be found at that college.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (THE EARL OF HARDWICKE): My Lords, I have striven very hard during the noble Lord's speech—some portions of which I regret I could not follow—to arrive at the actual points on which he desires information. But I am bound to say that, with one or two exceptions, I am unable to see how in any way the remarks he has made affect the Question on the Paper. With regard to the first part of his Question, last year various changes were made in the constitution of the college, and during the past year a considerable sum of money has been spent on improvements, both outside and inside the college. So far as the Secretary of State can state his views at this moment, the college is intended to continue to discharge the work for which it was originally started. As to the second part of the Question, the noble Lord expressed the opinion that the Coopers Hill men were not treated fairly, owing to the fact that the Royal Engineers were given all the best appointments in the Public Works Department of India. The facts are entirely contrary to that statement. The Royal Engineers have been for a very long time a decreasing element of the Public Works Department, and there is no question now of any unfairness or interference with the rights of Coopers Hill students. As a matter of fact, of the twelve officers who rank as chief engineers in the railway, irrigation, roads, and building branches of the Indian Public Works Department only one is a Royal Engineer. I have taken some pains to get the statistics on this subject. I think the noble Lord must be thinking of a time twenty years past. It is perfectly true that there was then a certain grievance. In 1881 the total number of men employed in the Public

Works Department of India, including Bombay and Madras, was 990; of that number 253, or 25 per cent., were Royal Engineers. In 1891 the total number employed in the department was 887, of whom 103 were Royal Engineers. The number of Royal Engineers was therefore reduced in that year to 12 per cent. In 1901 the total number employed was 768, of whom 74, or only 9 per cent., were Royal Engineers. The Coopers Hill College began to supply men to the Public Works Department of India in 1873, and now the pupils are filling up all the different grades. But there were men who were appointed under covenants before the Coopers Hill College was started, and these men are naturally the seniors of the department. At the present time the majority of the posts in the secretariat are held by Coopers Hill men. With regard to the last part of the question, it is perfectly true that when there has been vacant accommodation a few Colonial and other students not intended for the Indian Government service have been admitted to the college; but the fees paid by those students cover the cost of their education, and therefore no charge is thrown upon the Indian revenue. Then, again, during the last two or three years it is also true that a few commissions have been given to students in the Royal Engineers and in the Royal Artillery, and this is also considered by the Secretary of State to have a very wholesome effect, as it raises the keenness and the standard of education in the college. It must be remembered that these commissions have been given wholly owing to the fact that great pressure had to be put by the War Office to recruit officers for the South African war, and to the fact that suitable men were at hand in the Coopers Hill College. This has in no way inflicted a hardship on other students, and in no way has it been a burden on the revenues of India. If it is intended—I do not say it is—to give commissions to a certain number of students annually, it is quite possible that the Secretary of State for India will come to some arrangement with the War Office to receive a certain sum of money to provide for the additional cost that may be put upon the college; but that, of course, is a matter on which I

can express no opinion, because, so far as I know, there is no intention annually to give commissions to the students at Coopers Hill. When the noble Lord states, as he does in his question, that the college is almost entirely devoted to the military and engineering instruction of British and Colonial students, he states what is quite incorrect because, with these very few exceptions, the college is entirely devoted to the education of men for the Government service in India. The president of the Irrigation Commission in India, who has recently returned home, stated semi-officially that he is immensely struck with the *esprit de corps* and ability shown by all the Coopers Hill men with whom he came into contact. With reference to the noble Lord's concluding remark, I may say that I believe it is the intention of the Secretary of State to be present at Coopers Hill College on the public day this year, and I may accompany him.

SOMALILAND.

LORD WOLVERTON: My Lords, in rising to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give any further information with regard to affairs in Somaliland, I do not propose to trespass for more than a few moments on your Lordships' time, although the kindly latitude which seems to be granted to some Members in asking questions might encourage me to unduly prolong my remarks. Somaliland has been very much increasing during the past few years. It is a country which I have visited and of which I have a considerable amount of knowledge. Some few years ago, in the company of Colonel (now General) Paget, I traversed districts of the country which are now, I believe, in a state of considerable unrest. At that time we travelled with the consent of the then Foreign Secretary, my noble friend Lord Rosebery, who stated that he would not help us in any way, but he advised us to make friends and not treaties. That was the spirit in which we went into the country, and I believe, from what I have heard since, that our expedition was remarkably successful. We had not to fire a single shot in defence of our lives. I do not wish to give the impression that I consider this country a white man's country, for I may tell the House

that, starting as we did into the wilds of a vast region well equipped—we had ponies, donkeys, camels, and two dogs (the latter were eaten by panthers), and everything we could desire—we returned to the coast after many months' wandering, with no ponies, no camels, and only one donkey, which we described as the immortal ass. We formed the highest opinion of the natives; they are brave, trusting, and thoroughly reliable. I am very glad I can address my remarks to my noble friend, whose hospitality on two occasions I enjoyed in India. We have heard of a punitive expedition which has taken place. Although, of course, granting the usual bravery and gallantry of our native levies, led, and always well led, by British officers, yet I fear the result of that expedition has been negative, for I see by the public journals that the Mad Mullah still exists and flourishes like a green bay tree. There is no person in your Lordships' House who has had a greater experience of Mad Mullahs than the noble Marquess the Foreign Secretary. What my noble friend does not know about Mad Mullahs is not worth knowing. My noble friend knows, as I know, how rapidly rumours fly through India. In Africa it is the same, apparently by wireless telegraphy. I will give an instance. When I was in Khartoum I was told that in the dark days of the Tugela, rumours reached there and Cairo that things were not going well with us, and if it had not been for the courage, determination, and downright pluck of Lord Cromer and Sir Reginald Wingate, a chapter might have been written in the history of Egypt in the blood not only of white men but, perhaps, of white women too. As to the Mad Mullah, I should like to know from my noble friend whether he is taking some steps which will check the career of this madman.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, my noble friend asks me for some further information with regard to affairs in Somaliland, and I take it that when he speaks of further information, he means information that has not yet been given to the public. I notice that he speaks of information which he had derived from the public Press; but, as I daresay many of your Lordships are aware, the history of the events in which

he takes an interest has, up to a certain point, been given to the public on authority in the shape of a Blue-book, which was presented in March last and which carried the chronicle up to the end of February. It is set out in the Blue-book that during the summer of 1901 a force under Colonel Swayne attacked the Mullah and inflicted upon him two very severe defeats. Those defeats I cannot say were of a crushing character, but they were of a severe character. The first of them is described in the Report of Colonel Sadler, the Consul-General, with whom I have no doubt my noble friend is familiar. Describing the first battle, Colonel Sadler says the result of these operations had been that three determined attacks in force were repelled with severe loss, the force of the Mullah being completely broken up, and the remnants of his force driven in hot pursuit out of the Protectorate. Writing in July of last year of the second action, he says that a severe defeat had been inflicted on the Mullah and his followers by native levies commanded by Colonel Swayne. The Mullah's camp was burned, his cattle captured, several of his relatives killed, and he and his forces had been again driven back with heavy loss and scattered in every direction, the pursuit being carried on till it was useless to proceed further. We certainly hoped that the severe lesson which had thus been taught to the Mullah would have produced its effect; but at the same time I am bound to admit that our advisers on the spot from the first feared that he might be able at a future time once again to concentrate his forces and give us further trouble; and that was what happened. I may say that at the time it seemed to us very unwise, after these two actions, that the pursuit should be pressed into the waterless country into which the Mullah had retired, which, by the way, was within the Italian sphere of influence, and not within territory which we had a right to enter without a previous arrangement with the Italian Government. In the month of December last we heard that the Mullah was again upon the war path, and we heard in particular that he was attacking and inflicting severe punishment upon the Ishak tribes, over whom

we had assumed a kind of protectorate, and who deserve in every way the description which the noble Lord gave of the best of the natives in that country. It was impossible for us to allow these tribes to be further persecuted, and, moreover, it was clear that if the Mullah were allowed to overrun the country without let or hindrance, any prospects of the development of what small trade such a country affords would suffer very seriously. We accordingly prepared for a renewal of operations. We gave Colonel Swayne reinforcements and the additional officers for whom he particularly asked, and we arranged that a British ship of war should patrol the coast with the object of preventing the entrance of arms, which were sure to find their way into the hands of the Mullah's forces. On this occasion the Mullah declined battle and retreated once again into the arid region known as the Haud. This time we thought that it was not desirable to leave him alone even in that arid region, and Colonel Swayne is at this moment engaged in carrying on operations for the pursuit of the Mullah's forces. I think I may say that the experience of the previous year has shown us that it is absolutely necessary to inflict exemplary punishment upon this dangerous chieftain. We also feel that we owe it to the tribesmen to protect them from further ill-usage, and in the interests of trade it is also necessary that some steps should be taken to ensure the maintenance of peace in the Somali country. We have undertaken these operations this year under conditions much more favourable than those which were present when we were engaging Mullah in 1901. In the first place, we have arrived at a satisfactory arrangement with the Italian Government, which prevents our movements from being hampered owing to divisions between their sphere of influence and our own. We have an Italian officer attached to Colonel Swayne's force, and what is still more satisfactory is that the ships of war of the two Governments are co-operating upon the coast, in order to put down the traffic in arms. We have equipped small local vessels for this purpose; we have instituted a system of searches at the ports on the coast, and

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

we have been successful in seizing several cargoes of arms intended to be smuggled up to the front. The traffic in arms has been one of the most serious difficulties with which we have had to contend. I may mention to your Lordships that discarded arms of a certain class were to be bought recently at a price of about 1s. each in Europe. These arms were resold by dealers on the coast at the rate of about 15s., and were finally sold to the tribesmen for 45s. a piece—a very lucrative arrangement for those engaged in the traffic, but one which seriously aggravates the trouble which we have to encounter. The last reports are to the effect that for the moment that nefarious traffic has entirely ceased. We hear from Colonel Swayne that the Mullah is losing a large number of his men by desertion, and that the health of the troops is good. I hope that before long we may be able to inflict such a chastisement on the Mullah that the Somali country, which my noble friend knows so well, and in which he takes so great an interest, will be relieved permanently of the evils which the Mullah's presence has constantly brought to it.

House adjourned at twenty minutes
before Six o'clock till To-morrow
half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday 24th July, 1902.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence from this Evening's Sitting of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

CONSETT WATER BILL [LORDS.]

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

FELIXSTOWE AND WALTON IMPROVEMENT BILL [LORDS].

Verbal Amendments made (King's Consent signified); Bill read the third time, and passed with Amendments.

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed with Amendments.

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed without Amendment.

LEICESTER CORPORATION BILL [LORDS].

As amended, considered; an Amendment made; Bill to be read the third time.

WREXHAM DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].

As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 10).

Mr. ASHTON reported from the Committee on Group 10 of Railway Bills; That Mr. Skewes-Cox, one of the members of the said Committee, was not present during the sitting of the Committee this day.

Ordered, That Mr. Skewes-Cox do attend the Committee on Group 10 of Railway Bills To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill, Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 4) Bill, without Amendment, Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill, Colwyn Bay and Colwyn Urban District Council Bill, Finchley Urban District Council Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to, Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Barnes, etc.) Bill [Lords], Bristol Corporation Bill [Lords], Medway and Thames Canal Bill [Lords], Central London Railway Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION (No. 1) BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

HASTINGS HARBOUR DISTRICT RAILWAY (EXTENSION OF TIME) BILL [LORDS].

Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

BARROW HÆMATITE STEEL COMPANY LIMITED, BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

**DOVER HARBOUR BILL [LORDS],
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL BILL [LORDS],**

NOTTINGHAM CORPORATION BILL [LORDS],

MARGATE CORPORATION WATER BILL [LORDS],

GREAT NORTHERN AND STRAND RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

EDGWARE AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments, and an amended Title; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

BURGH POLICE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
(SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Dysart, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)
BILL.

Petitions against; From Southport; Rotherham; Northampton; and Salford; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES)
BILL

Petitions for alteration; From Whitechapel; Stepney; New Barnet; Kensworth; Shrewsbury; and Birmingham (two); to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S
SISTER BILL.

Petition from Caistor, against; to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Return [presented 23rd July]; to be printed. [No. 291.]

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Forty-sixth Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES ACT, 1868.

Copy presented, of Report of the Board of Trade under Part III. of the

Act. Orders for Fishery Grants, 1901-2 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 292.]

LONDON ELECTIONS BILL.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 10th June; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 293.]

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 2860 to 2862 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883 (RULES).

Copy of General Rules as to Administration Orders under Section 122, dated 10th July, 1902 [by Act].

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE).

Return ordered, "of revenue and expenditure of the Post Office for each year from 1869-70 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 311, of Session 1901), and an estimate of the same for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, in the following form:—

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.													
1	Postal receipts.	Extra receipts.	Estimated value of services to other departments.	Total.	Sites and buildings.		Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, &c., to total Revenue.	Conveyance of mails.	Percentage of conveyance of mails to total Revenue.	Packet service.	Other Expenditure.		Total Expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue, after deducting Columns 5 and 6.
2					Purchase.	Erection.							Under Post Office Vote.	Under other Votes.				
3																		
4																		
5																		
6																		
7																		
8																		
9																		
10																		
11																		
12																		
13																		
14																		
15																		

—(Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return ordered, "of revenue and expenditure of the Post Office for each year from 1869-70 (in continuation of Parlia-

mentary Paper, No. 312, of Session 1901), and an estimate of the same for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1902, in the following form :—

Year.	Revenue.				Expenditure.												Total Expenditure.	Percentage of total Expenditure to total Revenue.	Net Revenue.	Net Revenue after deducting Columns 5, 6, and 7.	Interest on stock created for purchase of telegraphs.
1	2	3	4	Purchase.	Erection.	7	8	9	10				11	12	13	14						15	16
	Telegraph receipts.	Extra receipts.	Estimated value of services to other Departments.	Total.	Sites and Buildings.		Telegraph extension.	Superannuations and other non-effective charges.	Salaries, wages, &c.	Percentage of salaries, wages, &c., to total Revenue.	Maintenance of telegraph system.	Percentage of maintenance of telegraph system to total Revenue.	Under Telegraph Vote.	Under other Votes.							

—(Mr. Austen Chamberlain.)

SHIPS COMMISSIONED (CHATHAM, PORTSMOUTH, AND DEVONPORT).

Return ordered, of the number of ships commissioned at the ports of Chatham, Portsmouth, and Devonport respectively, also the number paid out of commission at the same ports during the past five years."(—Mr. Reginald Lucas.)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Farr (Sutherlandshire) Poor Law Medical Officer.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney, and Shetland): To ask the Lord Advocate if his attention has been called to an advertisement for a poor law medical officer for the parish of Farr, Sutherlandshire; and whether such advertisement is in accord with the regulations of the Local Government Board.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.) The attention of the Local Government Board has been called to the advertisement referred to, and they are in communication with the Parish Council of Farr. The Board have not made a formal regulation on the subject, but, when they find a Parish Council interfering with the fees charged by their medical officer in his private practice, they call upon them to cease doing so, and they have repeatedly taken this course.

Congested Districts Board Grant in Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord Advocate if he will state how many of the roads in Ross-shire, for which the Congested Districts Board made a grant of £1,500 on the 20th June, 1898, are still unfinished.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.) The Letters path was not commenced, and the grant for it was cancelled on 31st March, 1902; the Cravir-Cromore Road has also not been commenced; but the other ways which are included in the final allocation of the grant are reported to be finished.

Food and Drugs Acts Prosecutions— Costs of Successful Defendants.

SIR JOHN STIRLING-MAXWELL (Glasgow, College): To ask the Lord Advocate whether his attention has been called to the action brought against Mr. James Shaw, dairyman, in the Airdrie Burgh Court, under the Food and Drugs Act, on 24th February, 1902; whether he is aware that Mr. Shaw, though acquitted, had to bear expenses in defending the action; and whether he will undertake to introduce legislation by which dairymen against whom such actions are brought may in future be relieved, if acquitted, of such expenses.

(Answered by Mr. A. Graham Murray.) It is always the case that where no provision is made in the special Act as to expenses,

no expenses in summary proceedings can be given to, or against, a public prosecutor; and there is a decision of the Court of Session applying this general rule to prosecutions under the Act in question. As the Act was only passed in 1899, and no such provision was inserted, I am not prepared to propose to alter the law on the subject.

Trawling in Moray Firth—International Closure.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will consider the expediency of instructing Sir Colin Scott Moncrieff, as representative of the British Government at the International Fishery Conference at Copenhagen, to endeavour to obtain the assent of the other Powers to the closing of the Moray Firth against foreign as well as British trawlers at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The instructions to the British delegates to the Conference, which is now sitting at Copenhagen, call attention to the importance of arriving at some practical proposals for the better regulation of trawling by the International closure of specified areas, such as the Moray Firth, or otherwise.

Tramways—Rates of Speed.

SIR SAVILE CROSSLEY (Halifax): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, before granting an increase of maximum speed to tramway lines on any section, he will cause an inquiry to be held with a view of recognising the difference between various sections of a line, and obviating danger to the public and drivers from a uniform high rate of speed over all sections alike.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The rates of maximum speed prescribed for tramways by the Board's regulations are fixed from time to time for the several sections of any lines upon the recommendation of an inspecting officer who has traversed the route for the purpose of inspection, and advises as to the rate which may safely be allowed upon each part of the route, having regard to the character of the road, the gradients, the nature of the traffic, and the safety appliances with which the cars are fitted. It is not intended to depart from this practice.

Scientific Investigation in the North Sea.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, seeing that only the northern portion of the programme of Great Britain's scientific investigations in the North Sea, for which a sum of £16,000 has been placed on this year's Estimates, will fall under the supervision of the Scotch Fishery Board, will he state by whom the remaining portion of that programme will be undertaken.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) Arrangement are being made with the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom to undertake on behalf of His Majesty's Government part of the scientific investigations in connection with the International programme.

Technical Institutions in India.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the number of institutions for the promotion of technical education in each Province of India which are supported wholly, or partly, by the Government of India.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I would refer the hon. Member to my answer to a Question by the hon. Member for Bethnal Green, North-East Division, on this subject given on the 17th July, 1900.† I have no later statistics; but the Viceroy is now considering the subject, on which a special Committee has recently reported, and I expect shortly to receive the Report and proposals of the Government of India, which will, no doubt, show clearly how the matter stands at the present time.

Kythal—Statistics of Population and Economic Condition.

MR. KIMBER (Wandsworth): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has any official information showing that the economic condition of the people of Kythal in the Punjab (the population of which in 1844 was estimated at 150,000 inhabitants) has under British administration deteriorated; and can he state the number of deaths by famine during the last four years in the Kythal Tehsil of district Kurnal; and what

† See (4) *Debates* lxxxvi., 230.

material advantages have accrued to the people of Kythal by their transfer in 1843 from native to British rule.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) The Kurnal district, in which Kythal is situate, has no doubt suffered from drought of recent years, but I am satisfied that the economic condition of the people has materially improved since 1843. I would refer the hon. Member to the remarks made by Mr. Denzil Ibbetson, member of the Government of India, in the recent Budget debate in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, describing from his own personal knowledge the material advantages which have accrued to the people, and the progress made by the district, since it came under British rule, and especially since 1870. I have no record of any deaths from famine in Kythal during the last four years.

Quetta-Nushki Railway—Surveys.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state at what date it is expected that the survey of the Quetta-Nushki railway project will be completed, and how much of the forty-seven lakhs provided for that scheme will be expended on the surveys; and whether, when the survey Report is sent in, the Council of India in its Public Works Department will be free to reconsider the project so as to determine between the expenditure upon this scheme or on the promotion of feeder lines in aid of the existing railways in fertile districts inside India, or on the augmentation of the grants for water storage and smaller irrigation works.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) I understand that the survey is completed, but until the accounts are received it is impossible to state the exact cost of these operations. The authority of the Secretary of State in Council as fixed by law provides ample opportunity for the consideration and reconsideration of this and other projects.

Bombay Public Works Department—Grievance of Native Engineers.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn

to the grievance of native engineers (assistant) of the Bombay Public Works Department with reference to promotion in the service; and, if so, will he explain why the two posts guaranteed to the first two successful candidates at the examination for the degree of licentiate of civil engineering of Bombay have been reduced to one.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) No representation has been made to me regarding the alleged grievance, nor have I any information as to any reduction in the number of appointments allotted to Bombay.

Central Provinces—Publication of Prices of Produce.

MR. CAINE: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will explain why, in the Administration Report of the Central Provinces for 1900-1901, the Statistical Tables III.—F, entitled prices of produce, is now discontinued; and whether arrangements are being made for its continuance under some other head or paper; and why, in the same Report, Section IV.—A, Ecclesiastical, is also abolished.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.*) Table III.—F has been omitted for some years back from the Administration Report of the Central Provinces because full information regarding prices of produce in each Indian province is given in the annual volume "Prices and Wages," published by the Director General of Statistics to the Government of India. Table IV.—A has probably been omitted because more complete returns regarding religious denominations in each province are being published in connection with the Indian census.

Local Government Areas—Return of Changes in Acreage.

MR. DAVID A. THOMAS (Merthyr, Tydvil): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can state or give a Return (in continuation of or supplementing Parliamentary Paper, No. 316, of Session 1888) of the changes in the acreage of the county boroughs, municipal boroughs, and urban districts in England and Wales that have been made since 1888.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I am not at present in a position to supply particulars as to the acreage of the areas referred to in the Question. These particulars will be published in due course in the Census Reports. The acreage of boroughs and other urban districts in 1888 are given in a Return of that year (Parliamentary Paper, No. 333).

Postal Packets to China—Customs Duties.

MR. YERBURGH (Chester): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information to the effect that British postal packages to China pay duty to the Customs, while parcels arriving by German or French mail escape duty free; and, if so, whether it is proposed to allow such proceeding to continue without protest.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Import duty has been charged upon British postal packages to China, and there is no doubt that the practice is legal; but we understand that parcels from France and Germany have escaped such taxation, and we shall certainly insist upon equality of treatment.

French and German Postal Services in China.

MR. YERBURGH: To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the French and German Governments have established postal services of their own in Chinese territory; and, if so, whether such proceeding has received the sanction of the Chinese Government.

(*Answered by Lord Cranborne.*) Post offices are maintained in China by France and Germany, also by Great Britain, Japan, and Russia. His Majesty's Government are unaware whether the Chinese Government have sanctioned the French and German post offices.

United Irish League Convention at Cork Court House.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the instructions which were sent to the High Sheriff of the county of Cork

from Dublin Castle on Friday last in reference to the holding of the United Irish League Convention in the County Council chamber of the Cork court house.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The High Sheriff was informed as follows—The custody of the court house is given to you as High Sheriff for the purpose mainly and primarily of providing for the administration of justice. So far as is consistent with that provision, you should allow the court house to be used by the County Council for the execution of their duties (Local Government Act, 1898, s. 72, ss. 3), but for no other purpose whatsoever. It is obvious that the promotion of a political meeting is not a part of the duty of the County Council, and a High Sheriff would utterly fail in his duty, for the discharge of which he is responsible to the Government, if he should allow a court house to be used for a political meeting, and it is your duty to resist any attempt to invade the building for such a purpose. In the discharge of that duty you are entitled to call for and to receive the assistance of the police.

Royal Army Clothing Factory—Civil Servant Volunteers—Camp Leave.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he is aware that in the Royal Army Clothing Department, Pimlico, the scarcity of pressing irons still continues, as well as delay in the issue of garments to women on piece work, and whether he will issue further instructions in connection with these matters; and will he consider the advisability of granting leave with pay to all Volunteers employed in the Department who go into camp for a fortnight, in view of the fact that regimental pay will not enable married men to support their wives and families.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The new pressing house is awaiting the fixing of exhaust apparatus, which it is hoped will be supplied on the 28th instant. There is no delay in the issue of garments to piece workers. As regards Volunteer camps, leave with pay is only granted to Volunteers at times of national emergency.

Duke of York's School—Dental Inspection

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office, if any arrangements have been made for dentistry and dental inspection of the children at the Duke of York's School; and, if so, will he state their nature.

(Answered by Lord Stanley.) Arrangements have been approved for the provision of a dentist and the necessary materials for dentistry for the next twelve months, after which period the arrangements are subject to revision.

Army Rations—Jam.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state what weights of the various descriptions of jam were bought for the Army in the years 1899, 1900, and 1901 respectively; and what weight of jam is required for the Army in a year when there is no war.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The weights of jams purchased in the years 1899, 1900, and 1901 are (exclusive of local purchases) as follows:—

Varieties.	English.			Colonial.		Total.
	1899.	1900.	1901.	1900.	1901.	
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Gooseberry -	971,467	3,589,016	2,202,800	270,000	382,000	7,415,283
Apricot -	838,549	3,640,336	1,523,270	537,000	1,014,000	7,553,155
Plum -	741,121	2,750,312	1,895,000	746,000	970,000	7,102,433
Strawberry -	50,000	1,496,400	825,000	25,000	25,000	2,421,400
Black Currant -	—	177,606	—	—	—	177,606
Blackberry -	—	35,000	—	—	—	35,000
Greengage -	—	50,000	—	50,000	—	100,000
Apple -	—	14,400	—	100,000	—	114,400
Damson -	—	215,200	—	—	—	215,200
Mixed Fruits -	—	469,400	—	578,400	—	1,047,800
Not Specified -	—	—	—	765,000	—	765,000
Peach -	—	—	—	166,000	298,000	464,000
Marmalade -	907,615	4,158,870	2,105,000	—	—	7,171,485
Totals -	3,508,752	16,596,540	8,551,070	3,237,400	2,689,000	34,582,762

Jam is not issued as a ration in peace time, a small quantity is issued as an "extra" to patients in hospital, but no records of the quantity are available.

Fourth West York Artillery—Obsolete Armaments.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he is in a position to state when modern breech-loading field guns will be supplied as promised to the Fourth West York Artillery and other Artillery Volunteer Corps, who are still provided with 16-pounder muzzle-loading guns of an obsolete pattern.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) I am not yet in a position to state when modern breech-loading guns will be available for all the Volunteer Artillery. Up to date, 17 batteries of 4·7-inch guns have been supplied to corps. As regards field guns, the whole question is under consideration.

Native Labour in Rhodesia—British South Africa Company's Proposal.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether His Majesty's Government is now considering proposals put forward by the British South Africa Company for the collection and regulation of Native labour in Rhodesia; and, whether these proposals, or the suggested ordinances based on them, will be laid before Parliament before they are finally adopted.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.) His Majesty's Government are in correspondence with the British South Africa Company in regard to the matter. I am not prepared to give such a pledge. Certain papers relating to the Question of Native labour in Southern Rhodesia will be published directly.

South African Trade—Issue of Circulars.

MR. PARKES (Birmingham, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware of the manner in which South African trade is being absorbed by Foreign nations; and whether he will take steps, in conjunction with the Governments of South Africa, by the publication of circulars showing the requirements of the districts or otherwise to assist British manufacturers to obtain a share of this trade.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain.)

(1) I am not aware that the bulk of the South African trade is being absorbed by Foreign nations. (2) I have, however, observed statements in the Press that large orders have recently been placed with foreign firms, and I am instructing the Governments of the South African Colonies as to the best steps to be taken to assist British trade, but I feel that British manufacturers must depend chiefly on their own enterprise and intelligence to secure their full share of the South African trade.

(2.15) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.**Volunteer Efficiency Regulations.**

MR. LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a trained volunteer is efficient for the year who does not attend camp but performs sixteen drills and musketry; whether a volunteer recruit can become efficient who enlists before camp, but cannot attend one, and performs forty-six recruit drills and musketry; and whether a volunteer recruit can become efficient who enlists after camp and performs forty recruit drills and musketry.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): A trained volunteer who does ten drills, but does not attend camp, can be returned as efficient for this year, and draw the full grant of thirty-five shillings: if his whole corps is exempted from camp, he must attend sixteen drills. As regards the rest of the Question, a recruit can become efficient any year by

doing forty drills and musketry: if, however, his whole corps is exempted from camp, he must do forty-six drills.

MR. LEES KNOWLES: Will the right hon. Gentleman take into consideration that there is no provision in the new regulation for recruits who cannot attend camp.

MR. BRODRICK: I am afraid I cannot make any further concession. The arrangements for this year are, I think, complete.

Lord Milner and the Cape Constitution.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been directed to the fact that Dr. Smartt has, in his speeches in various places in Cape Colony, in favour of the suspension of the Cape Constitution, read a letter written to him by Lord Milner in the middle of June, advocating the suspension of the Cape Constitution and authorising Dr. Smartt to make the views of the High Commissioner on this subject known to the public. And, what action, if any, does he propose to take with reference to this intervention of Lord Milner in politics in Cape Colony.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN): (1) I have seen a report of Dr. Smartt's speech; (2) I do not consider any action is necessary.

Transfer of Transvaal Territory to Cape Colony.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies how much of the Transvaal territory has to be handed over to the Colony of Natal; and whether, in view of the dissatisfaction caused by this transfer amongst the Dutch in South Africa, the Transvaal can be maintained for administration intact.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN): (1) I have to refer the honourable Member to memorandum A. in Parliamentary Paper Cd. 941, page 2; (2) The answer is in the negative.

Under Age Recruits.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any application has recently been made to him for the discharge of John Deacons, of Granard, County Longford, who recently enlisted when he was but sixteen years and nine months of age; and whether, as this boy was the sole support of his aged parents, he will direct his discharge from the Army.

MR. BRODRICK: No such application has reached the War Office. The matter is entirely one for the discretion of the General Officer commanding.

Coronation—Indian Guests—Charges on Indian Revenues.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the entire cost of entertaining the native Indian princes, invited to England by the Imperial Government as guests of His Majesty for the Coronation, is to be charged on the revenues of India; if not, what proportion of the cost is to be charged, and what is the total sum that the taxpayers of India will have to pay for the travelling expenses and entertainment of the native princes and Indian military contingent who have come to England for the Coronation, in response to the invitation of the Imperial Government.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): I am in communication with the Treasury on the subject, and am therefore at present unable to give the particulars for which the hon. Member asks. The original estimated cost of the conveyance, lodging, entertainment, etc., of the chiefs, representatives, and military contingent will be found on pages 38 and 53 of the Indian Financial Statement for 1902-3, paragraphs 192 and 218.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: My Question was, is the cost to be charged to the Indian Budget.

LORD G. HAMILTON: A certain proportion of the cost will, unquestionably, be charged to the Indian Budget,

and has been included in it. The question I am unable to answer is what proportion will be borne by the Imperial Revenue.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask whether, in view of the fact that these Indian gentlemen have come to England by invitation to take part in the Coronation, the Government will reconsider the charging of the expenses to the Indian Revenue.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have told the hon. Gentleman that I am in communication with the Treasury, and I am, at present, unable to say more.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: When may I repeat the Question?

LORD G. HAMILTON: You had better wait until the Autumn session.

MR. BARTLEY (Islington, N.): May I ask, will there be an opportunity of discussing this matter, and of deciding whether, as these people are our guests, we should not pay the bill?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have said that these estimates are included in the Indian Budget.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: May I ask whether it was intimated to these Indian gentlemen when the invitation was sent to them that they were expected to come here as "paying guests"?

LORD G. HAMILTON: They are not "paying guests."

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): If this Question is to be repeated in the Autumn session, will not that be after the Appropriation Bill?

MR. MACVEAGH (Down Co., S.): And will not the present Chancellor of the Exchequer have retired by then?

LORD G. HAMILTON: That has nothing to do with the Appropriation Bill.

Governor Generalship of Australia.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when the new Governor General of Australia is to be appointed.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): My right hon. friend is unable to make any statement at present on this subject.

Language Question in Malta.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any, and, if so, what reply has been sent to Mr. E. Semini, one of the elected members of the Council of Malta, in reply to his communication, dated 12th May, the receipt of which was acknowledged on 8th July, with reference to the language question in Malta.

MR. BRODRICK (for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): No further answer than that referred to by the hon. Member has been returned to Mr. Semini, whose letter raised questions as to the policy of His Majesty's Government, which have been fully dealt with by Statements already made public.

Irish Board of Education—Marlborough Street College, Dublin.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that tenders to build a new lecture theatre at Marlborough Street, Dublin, were invited by the Board of National Education on 2nd May, and that four tenders were submitted; and that when revised tenders, omitting part of the work, were invited, the two contractors whose tenders in the first instance were the lowest were not invited to submit revised estimates; whether he is aware that the two contractors thus passed over are Roman Catholics; and can he state why the usual practice was not followed in this case.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): I am informed by the National Board of Education that eight tenders were submitted to the Board. The Commissioners, having scrutinised the tenders, decided to alter the original plans, and having selected, after careful consideration, and in the exercise of their discretion, the firms that they thought would most satisfactorily carry out the altered requirements, the Commissioners invited

these firms to submit amended tenders. The religious denominations of those who tendered were not inquired into by the Commissioners, nor known to them.

MR. DILLON asked on what principle the selection of the firms to tender was made.

MR. WYNDHAM: The Board has power to exercise discretion in the matter, and I have no right to press for further information than they choose to give.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): Were the altered tenders advertised?

MR. WYNDHAM: No; apparently two firms were invited to tender on the altered specifications.

Donegal Summer Fishing Subsidies.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the amount of the subsidies paid to Scotch curers by the Congested Districts Board in respect of the development of the summer fishing on the Donegal coast; whether it is proposed to continue these subsidies next year; and whether the same terms will be offered to native as to other curers.

MR. WYNDHAM: The total amount of the subsidies paid to Scotch merchants was £96. One merchant received £64 for four boats, and another £32 for two boats. The same terms were offered to a Cork firm, but, failing to find boats, it declined the offer. It is not proposed to renew this system next season.

Dingle Fishing Industry.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Board are prepared to give any, and, if so, what support to the fishermen of Dingle, in reply to the petition recently presented to the Board by the fishermen and merchants of that town.

MR. WYNDHAM: The petition was received on Tuesday last only. It will be considered by the Board at its next meeting on the 8th August.

Irish Prison Warders—Hours of Duty.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the difference in the numbers of hours warders are on duty in local prisons in Ireland and England; what are the differences in the rates of pay in the two countries; and whether it is proposed to assimilate the rate of pay and the number of working hours.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of hours performed by warders on duty in English prisons averages, I am informed, sixty-one hours forty minutes per week. In Irish prisons the average, calculated on the five prisons at Sligo, Castlebar, Londonderry, Kilmainham, and Mountjoy, works out at sixty-six hours thirty-eight minutes. In England prisoners are exercised for one hour daily, in Ireland for two hours. If the English practice in this respect prevailed in Ireland the hours of duty for warders would be correspondingly lightened. The rates of pay to warders in both countries are set out in the Estimates. It is not possible to draw a comparison between the two, as the classification is different in each country. No further changes are proposed, such as suggested.

Ex-Sergeant Sheridan's Victims—Case of McGoochan.

MR. TULLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has inquired into the sworn statements of James McGoochan, of Aughoo, Ballinamore, and his son as to the conduct on their property by ex-Sergeant Sheridan and ex-Constable Reid; and whether it is proposed to award compensation to McGoochan for the loss he sustained.

MR. WYNDHAM: James McGoochan declined to swear an information or seek compensation when his hay and turf were thrown down on the night of 6th November, 1899. The petty sessions clerk has no knowledge of his having done so at any time. I am not in possession of any evidence pointing to Sheridan, Reid, or any one else as the persons who threw down these stacks, although McGoochan, I understand, states that he suspects the ex-constable named in the Question.

MR. TULLY: If I send an affidavit, will the right hon. Gentleman cause inquiry to be made?

MR. WYNDHAM: I will certainly see if there is any evidence to support the claims.

Labourers' Cottages in Granard Union.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the cause of the delay in the issuing of the loan for the building of the labourers' cottages in Granard Union under their last Labourers Act scheme; and, seeing that all the formulas of the law have been complied with, will he represent to the Board of Works the necessity of issuing this loan forthwith.

MR. WYNDHAM: The loan was sanctioned by the Treasury in May. Any subsequent delay has arisen in connection with the preparation of the requisite mortgage deed, which was only received yesterday from the District Council. If this is found to be in order, the first instalment of the loan will at once issue.

Remounts—The Studdert Case.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether Major C. W. Studdert, one of the defendants in the Remount case recently tried in Dublin, is a receiver under the Land Judges Court.

MR. WYNDHAM: No, Sir. On the 22nd inst. the Land Judge ordered the name of Major Studdert to be removed from the list of receivers.

MR. MACVEAGH: Does this Gentleman hold the Commission of the Peace in Ireland?

MR. WYNDHAM: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will give me notice. I think the reply is in the negative, however.

Letterkenny Railway.

MR. HUGH LAW: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of a petition addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Works, Dublin,

by the Dunfanaghy District Council, praying for a remission of a tax of 4d. in the £ paid by the rural district in respect of the Letterkenny Railway; and for an investigation of the earnings of the said railway by independent audit; and whether he will take any steps to meet the wishes of the Council.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E): My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. I have not yet received any report on this subject, but I am making inquiry, and will inform the hon. Member of the result in due course.

Post Office Officials and Political Demonstrations.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a rural messenger attached to the Raphoe Post Office, County Donegal, took part as a member of a band in an Orange procession at Raphoe on the 12th July last, and if steps will be taken to prevent public officials in future taking part in such displays.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The Postmaster General will have inquiry made upon the subject, and will communicate with the hon. Member.

Crown Foreshore Rights on the Connemara Coast.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the fines imposed upon persons in the Carna district of Connemara for the cutting of sea-weed will be remitted, and whether compensation will be made to those who have been imprisoned for the like offence whether the Board of Trade will take the necessary steps to prevent landlords in future from prosecuting their tenants for the cutting of sea-weed, which is the property of the crown.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The Board of Trade were not in any way parties to the

proceedings referred to, and I have no information as to the circumstances in which the defendants were fined or imprisoned. Any Question on the subject should be addressed to the Irish Government. The Board of Trade cannot undertake to prevent prosecutions, but whenever their attention is called to an assertion of rights of property over Crown foreshore, they take steps to safeguard the interests of the Crown.

Island of Tory Cable.

MR. HUGH LAW: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the breakdown of the cable connecting the Island of Tory with the coast of County Donegal; and whether, in view of the importance of telegraphic communication to the shipping trade and otherwise, he proposes to take any action regarding it.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The matter is being considered by the Board of Trade and other Departments concerned.

MR. HUGH LAW: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether there is any prospect of the cable being repaired during the summer?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am afraid I am not in a position to make any statement as to that.

NEW BILLS.

IMPORTED MEAT (IRELAND) BILL.

"For regulating the sale in Ireland of Imported Meat," presented by Mr. Field, under Standing Order No. 31; supported by Captain Donelan, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, and Mr. Clancy; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 285.]

DETENTION OF POOR PERSONS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To extend the powers of the Local Government Board for Scotland in regard to the Detention of Poor Persons in poor houses and parish hospitals," presented

by Mr. Baird, under Standing Order No. 31; supported by Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Andrew Agnew, and Mr. Craig: to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 286.]

SUPPLY.

[TWENTIETH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the salaries and expenses of the offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

(2.30.) Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said all who had listened to the Chief Secretary's speech yesterday—everyone, at least, who was interested in the future of Ireland—would feel certainly no very agreeable anticipations for the near future of the affairs of that country. The speech was, from beginning to end, a declaration of war. It was marked by a total absence of those fair prophecies which they had been accustomed to listen to in previous speeches of the Chief Secretary, and which had not been fulfilled. In yesterday's speech he threw away all that mannerism and declared war upon the Irish people, and announced that no measures of reform could be considered until what he was pleased to describe as the policy of social prescription was renounced by the people and put down by the power of the Government. That was language to which they had been accustomed to listen from successive Chief Secretaries, and he had noticed on more than one occasion it was language which generally preceded some really serious attempt to apply a remedy to the condition of Ireland. The Chief Secretary made a very extraordinary declaration. He charged the

Irish Party with being more addicted to inflaming the passions of the Irish people with rhetoric than to recommend to the judgment of the House the case of reform and ameliorative legislation. Of course, that was one of the things they had always been complaining of. Ever since the Irish Members came into the House it had been admitted by all English Ministers that one of the enormous evils of the situation in Ireland was that a hearing could never be got from any advocate of Irish reform until the passions of the Irish people had been inflamed to boiling point. It was one of the curses of Ireland that they had ever been taught, generation after generation, that it was not to reason or argument in that House, not to the ordinary methods adopted by free and constitutionally governed people, that they had to look for reforms, but precisely to that, and that alone, which the Chief Secretary denounced in his speech, namely, the inflammation of the passions of the people to some form of social war. Every great reform that had been carried for Ireland during the last hundred years had, first of all, been flouted, denied a hearing—spat upon, he might almost say—in that House, year after year. That was the case with regard to Catholic emancipation and every one of the Land Acts which had to some extent mitigated the horrors of the Irish land system. It was the case in regard to the abolition of the Established Church and every reform, without exception, which had marked the history of English government in Ireland, and that was one of their chief indictments against the system of government of their country. They could not encourage their people to hope for any reform until the whole country had been turned upside down, and all the forces of social strife and bitterness had been let loose. What was the use of the Chief Secretary indulging in such absurd tirades, condemning them for inflaming the passions of the people by rhetoric? The real cause of these inflammations and social disturbances were the men who, like himself, admitted that to postpone justice was to deny justice, but who deliberately refused to meet, or attempt to meet, the admitted grievances of the Irish people. He knew the Irish people well, and, with all that had been

said about their excitable character, and the excitable Celtic nature, no rhetoric that they were masters of would succeed in letting loose those social wars in Ireland unless they had been originally provoked by that denial of justice which the Chief Secretary himself had admitted within the last few weeks. Three or four months ago, on the debate on the Address, and on the subsequent debate when the Coercion Act was first proclaimed over the greater part of Ireland, the Chief Secretary adopted a tone of cheerful optimism, and treated this as a matter of very small importance, which would all pass over before a little firmness. He addressed to the right hon. Gentleman a warning, which he thought he might have given a little more weight to as coming from a rather old campaigner. He had said that the Irish Government, which embarked on a policy of coercion, was getting on a slippery slope, and would go much further than they expected. Since then, coercion had been proclaimed, and nearly sixty representative men had been put into gaol. Had the situation in Ireland improved? The clouds were darkening round the right hon. Gentleman's course, and he was beginning to realise for the first time the road on which Lord Londonderry and his gang had driven him. He appeared before the people of Ireland as the obedient servant of Lord Londonderry and the De Freyne combination. Not in one single sentence had he attempted to answer the indictment of the hon. Member for Waterford, with regard to the shameful and most scandalous transaction in which Lord Clonbrock and Mr. Smith Barry, members of the De Freyne syndicate, as Privy Councillors, were invited to the meeting to proclaim half Ireland. That brought the Government into direct touch with the conspiracy, and made them, until explanations were offered, the partisans and the slaves of the landlords.

The right hon. Gentleman had applied a monstrous coercion law without a shadow of justification in respect to agrarian crime. Ireland today was in every respect more free from disorder and crime than any part of the United Kingdom. One of the counties where coercion was in force was Tipperary, where Mr. Justice Johnson, addressing the Grand Jury at the last assizes, said there were only two cases of crime in the whole county—an English soldier charged

with assaulting a little girl, and an Englishman charged with stealing a bicycle. He protested, next, against the infamy of treating these coercion prisoners as ordinary criminals. When Dr. Jameson was convicted, two Tory Members came to him with a petition to get him made a first-class misdemeanant. He signed it, but asked the Tory Members whether they would remember it when the next Coercion Act was before the House, and they said they would, and he believed they did; but it had been ineffectual, and political prisoners were being wrongfully and shamefully convicted as common criminals. Some years ago he was himself undergoing a sentence of six months imprisonment, and he read in a newspaper that was smuggled in to him the account of a case which had been heard in the Dublin Courts. A man was charged with knocking a woman down and nearly kicking her to death. The only defence he offered was that he had mistaken the woman for his wife. He was sentenced to six months imprisonment, the same sentence which he himself was undergoing, and he could not help thinking what a strange country they lived in. He was a Member of Parliament who had done and said nothing which his own conscience condemned, nothing which was wrong in the eyes of the vast majority of his countrymen, nothing which would cost him their votes or their confidence, nothing which would deny him the right to go back to the House in a position of equality with any gentleman in England; and yet, in the eyes of the Government, he was a criminal in every respect—the same as the man who nearly kicked a woman to death. The obstinacy of the Government in pursuing such a system as that was infamous, and he agreed with Mr. Redmond that no nation of men in the world, who did not deserve to be called a nation of cowards and slaves, would be loyal to such a system. If they had power, it would be their duty—if they failed by argument, as they did—to put an end to that abominable system.

Turning to the question of the De Freyne Estate and the Associated Estates, the hon. Member ridiculed the statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Antrim as to the condition of the De Freyne tenants, and said they were living in a condition that was a reproach to any Government that

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tolerated it. The bogs on which they lived were wet morasses, which these men and their fathers had won from the wilderness—land not worth a penny an acre, excepting as it had been made worth it by the unrequited labour of these unhappy people. The practice on this and the adjoining Dillon estate had been, when any people married in the old days, to give them six or seven acres at a shilling an acre, and when they had built their house and reclaimed a portion of it to raise the rent to £2 or £3. That was the way the landlords built up their estates, and now they had the audacity to talk about sordid agitators who lived upon the free gifts of the servant girls of New York. That the men who had obtained these, he would not say ill-gotten gains, because he had no personal animosity against Lord de Freyne, should complain of the present movement, amazed him. He was prepared to agree that the landlords should get a good deal more than the market value of their estates in order to bring happiness and peace to these districts, and allow the people to enjoy the fruits of their labour. The Congested Districts Board did a great work when they bought the Dillon estate, which had so changed that it would not now be recognised by one who had known it before the purchase. Up to two or three years ago there was a horrible green pool in front of every house, breeding typhoid fever; and the pigs, cattle, and children were all together in the house. All over the estate now cattle sheds and dairies were being built; drainage was going on; and improvements on every side; and there were also signs of reviving industry. Although more would have to be done to increase the holdings of the poorer men who had not enough land to live on, the change already effected was like a miracle. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Antrim had never taken the slightest interest in the fate of these poor people, until he went down to back up the evictors. Whether it were soon or late, the De Freyne estate must be sold; and, although the Chief Secretary might repeat his cheap heroics, the day would come, and that soon, when he would be forced by the public opinion of this country, as well as of Ireland, to buy this estate and settle these people in peace

in their holdings. This could easily be done, and to postpone the settlement until there had been a further amount of disturbance and bad blood aroused was another instance of the system of Irish government. The argument was all on one side, and the solution was easy. He himself offered, before a single crown of costs had been put on the De Freyne estate, that, if the Government would give them a reasonable hope that they were nearing a solution, he would go down and implore the tenants to pay their rents.

The situation on the De Freyne estate was another illustration of the perversity and stupidity of the Government in dealing with Ireland. The action of the De Freyne tenants had been grossly misrepresented. It had been represented as a strike against rents, but it was nothing of the sort. In the case of the Congested Districts Board purchasing Lord Dillon's estate, they offered a good deal less than he subsequently got. He said deliberately that the tenants were offering to buy from Lord de Freyne at their full value the tenants' own property which they had themselves created on the estate. Yet they were called robbers! This was monstrous. The right hon. Member for South Antrim made the amazing statement that the cause of the trouble on the De Freyne estate was not the settlement on the Dillon estate. Judge O'Connor Morris stated from the Bench that the curse of the district was the De Freyne estate, and that the trouble on that estate was the inevitable result of what had been done on the Dillon estate. He (Mr. Dillon) had been tormented by poor people coming to lay their complaints before him about Lord de Freyne's agent and his predecessor. These tenants urged him to go to meetings. He did not tell them to pay their rents, but he did tell them to keep the pot boiling, and keep up a fierce agitation. On the Dillon estate they kept the pot boiling, and they got it sold. The same thing would happen on the De Freyne estate. He challenged the Chief Secretary to say that the condition under which the tenants of the De Freyne estate lived was tolerable. The Chief Secretary could not say that, but he said that there must be no agitation, that there must be peace, they must all pay up,

and then he would consider their case. Why had not the Chief Secretary considered their case? Ten years ago the right hon. Member for South Tyrone went over the De Freyne estate at the request of the Colonial Secretary, and denounced, in *The Times* newspaper, the misery, and poverty, and shame of the condition of the tenantry there. The Chief Secretary thought it was a good thing to use the sufferings of these people to abuse the right hon. Member for Montrose, but the tenants were in exactly the same position, and now they were told if they would pay up, the Government would consider their case. They had been told that not a single acre of land would be bought by the Congested Districts Board in any parish where a branch of the United Irish League was formed. They were not intimidated by that in East Mayo, and the result was that within a year that pledge was broken. He, therefore, hoped that a better day would dawn after some time for these unhappy tenants. The record of the Government in regard to the De Freyne estate was a base record. They had used the sufferings of these tenants when it suited their purpose, but now they threw them aside. The right hon. Member for South Antrim made one of the most cowardly and false statements last night in reference to a very dear friend of his—Mr. Valentine Kilbride—that was ever made in the House. He said Mr. Valentine Kilbride, a well-known Dublin solicitor, had deserted those tenants, and had been instrumental, for selfish purposes, in heaping up enormous costs in regard to these tenants. He characterised that as a most scandalous falsehood, and he said that it was a most cowardly thing for the right hon. Gentleman to avail himself of the protection and shelter of the House to make such statements.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order! To impute falsehood to an hon. Member of this House is not in order.

MR. DILLON said he would not impute falsehood to the hon. Member. He imputed falsehood to the statement, and he was going to say, before he was

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interrupted, that he considered it a most cowardly thing to impute to an absolutely honourable man—a far more honourable man than the hon. Member was himself—a dishonourable line of professional conduct, which he would not desire to repeat outside the House.

Turning to the case of Sergeant Sheridan, no one who took part in the debate on this matter last Thursday week on the Constabulary Vote attempted to criticise or find fault with the action of the Chief Secretary up to the presentation of the secret report. He had no fault to find with his action in declining to prosecute Sheridan in regard to the case of the tramp Ryan, who was supposed to have posted the threatening notice; he had no fault to find with him for deciding that the investigation should be a secret one; he had no fault to find with him in deciding—he thought he was entitled to, and was wise and perfectly honest in his desire to get at the truth—to give an indemnity to the police who gave information against Sheridan. That was all fair and defensible and right, and, in his judgment, in view of the circumstances, the best plan of getting at the truth. But on Thursday week the question that was left unanswered by the Chief Secretary was, why, after he got the secret report, he did not arrest and prosecute Sheridan. The Chief Secretary did not attempt to give any reply to that question, but on the other hand the Attorney General gave a series of answers. He said Sheridan was not prosecuted because the indemnity given to the witness was of such a character that the Government could not prosecute. He declined to give the terms of the indemnity, and then he made the extraordinary and amazing statement that the question of the prosecution of Sheridan never came before him. Sheridan was a criminal at large, and yet the prosecution of this man never came before the Attorney General. Dealing with the debate of last Thursday week, *The Times* newspaper said in a leading article—

“One point remains inadequately explained by either the Chief Secretary or the Attorney General. Sheridan himself had no share in the indemnity, and immediately the result of the secret inquiry was known he might have been arrested and put upon his trial, unless

the terms entered into with the other constables prevented their being put into the box."

That showed that, even in the mind of so prejudiced a witness as *The Times*, the answer of the Chief Secretary and Attorney General was unsatisfactory. What was the answer of the Chief Secretary last night? He said he had not investigated the secret report with the view to the prosecution of Sheridan, who was discharged five months before that secret report was presented; but he took the report in order to see whether any reparation could be made to the persons convicted on the evidence of Sheridan. They had it from the Chief Secretary that he did not consider even the possibility of prosecuting Sheridan. In the report presented to him the Chief Secretary had plenty of evidence against Sheridan, but the deduction he drew was that there was no sworn evidence. There was abundant evidence to ensure the conviction of Sheridan, and, although the Chief Secretary had had placed in his hands a report showing that this man was engaged in these crimes for years, and that he had convicted many men, it had never occurred to his mind to prosecute him. The Chief Secretary said the indemnity given to the constables was not in writing, and was not submitted to him, and was given by his subordinates. He said that was most improper, and the Chief Secretary's subordinates had no right to give to those constables an indemnity that protected not only themselves, but also protected Sheridan. He refused to believe the indemnity was in that form until he saw it. He held that it was open to the Chief Secretary to put Sheridan on his trial, to put those witnesses into the box and get them to confirm on oath the statements they made to the secret inquiry. If this were the case of an ordinary criminal, the Government would have been free with their rewards to get evidence against him. But this was not the strangest part of the case. Throughout the whole argument it seemed to be assumed that the Government was thrown back on the police evidence, and the whole structure of the case of the Chief Secretary and Attorney General rested on that foundation.

Nothing could be more mistaken than that idea. The Government, with the secret inquiry, had at their disposal not only the police evidence, but ample civilian evidence also. There were plenty of civilians only too anxious to give evidence. He received a letter from a man on the 25th July last, before the Government had announced to the House the result of the secret inquiry. That letter contained, among other things, the following statement—

"Pat Farrell said to them, and is prepared to swear that Sergeant Sheridan asked him to get up a party and break into the house of Michael Carry, a cousin of McGoochan, and half kill him, Carry, and that he (Sheridan) would watch for him. Farrell and Carry were on bad terms, and Carry was to be assailed because he said it was Sheridan who cut the tails off the cows."

There was Sergeant Sheridan organising a moonlight raid. In the writer of that letter they had a man prepared to swear that Sergeant Sheridan was engaged in organising another moonlight outrage, which did not take place, simply because the writer was too decent a man to fall into the trap. There was plenty of civilian evidence upon which to put Sheridan on his trial. Why was not Dan McGoochan's oath taken?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): It would be simply one oath against another.

MR. DILLON: Then why not let a jury decide between them?

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said that technically it was necessary to have either two witnesses, or one witness with material corroboration.

MR. DILLON contended that Dan McGoochan could have sworn to the perjury, and the cow doctor who went over the field and failed to discover any tracks would supply the corroboration. If it had been a case of hunting down Nationalists, the Government would not have been so particular. The hon. Member proceeded to quote a letter published in September last, and written by Dan McGoochan himself, giving his account of the matter, which he thought gave a

vivid picture of the way in which the administration of law in Ireland was regarded by the people. The anger of the judge, the packed jury, the repeated trials, the placing of the policeman's oath above all others, and the advice of prisoner's counsel that a plea of "Guilty" should be entered, to which Dan McGoochan had referred, were all ordinary elements of trials in Ireland, and one could not be surprised that the administration of the law was held in contempt. As to Sheridan himself, many hon. Members seemed to be doubtful whether he was within jurisdiction, after the Government were fully aware of these crimes, and had at their disposal, as he contended, abundant evidence, even without putting the policeman in the box, on which to bring him to trial. He had had a long correspondence with Sheridan, in which the latter denounced the Government, asserted his innocence, and claimed to be ready to prove before an impartial tribunal that he was the victim of a conspiracy. The last of the letters was after the secret inquiry, and in it he defied the Government, and stated that they were afraid to prosecute him, because if he was put into the box he would reveal such a state of things as would astonish the world. Nearly a month after the Chief Secretary had denounced him as a criminal, Sheridan wrote a letter, which appeared in the *Independent* on September 9th, 1901, dated from Newmarket, County Cork, declaring that the public had heard only one side of the question, and that he would be able to show that others had planned and secretly worked his ruin.

The sum total of the matter was that the public in Ireland believed that the Government were afraid to prosecute Sheridan, and no amount of rhetoric would remove that impression. In the interests of his own police and his own Government, the Chief Secretary was very ill-advised in leaving this matter in its present position. It had been said that the Nationalists were attacking the police force, and trying to make out that it was wholly composed of Sheridans. That was not true. They had never said it, nor did they believe it. He had heard the bitterest complaints in regard to the machinery and the method of management of the police

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force, and again and again he had heard the complaint that the Constabulary in Ireland was no place for an honest man to succeed in, that spies were constantly found in the barracks, and that only the men who did the dirty work got promotion. There were others who were doing the same kind of work as Sheridan, and they were the men who would get promotion, and the men who did their work honestly found they were passed over when promotion was in question. Those who acted as the accomplices of the police and as the instruments of the landlords, or as promoters of crime, were those who were rewarded by promotion. He was confident that the Irish Constabulary under an Irish Government would become an excellent police force, but it would be because they would find that characters like Sheridan would get no encouragement, and the men who did their duty would be properly rewarded. The Government had given no adequate explanation of their conduct in regard to Sheridan. This man had been at the mercy of the Government, and they had abundant evidence to put him on his trial; and it would have been better to have taken this course, even if the jury had disagreed. There was a profound conviction in Ireland that there was a mystery about this case which the Government did not desire to clear up, and this transaction altogether strengthened the conviction that the Irish Government, at all events if not in its heads, at least in its subordinates, were still pursuing that abominable policy of *agent provocateur*, and manufacturing crime; and that was still accepted by the Castle as one of the necessities of Irish government.

*(3.50.) MR. HARRIS (Tynemouth) apologised to the Committee for taking part in a debate which did not immediately concern himself or his constituency. He had listened with feelings of hopelessness to the vindictive remarks which had been hurled across the floor of the House. He ventured to offer to the Chief Secretary one word of encouragement in the extremely difficult and thankless task which he had to discharge. There was no more thankless office than that of Chief Secretary for Ireland. As an

Englishman, he thought it was both satisfactory and significant to observe that in the speeches they had heard during the last two days the representatives of each section of Irish politics—the United Irish League, the Orange organisation, the landlord and the tenant parties—seemed to consider that it was their one individual interest only which was being oppressed by the Government of Ireland, and that too much toleration had been shown to every other interest. Only a few months ago the United Irish League complained of the application of coercion, while at the same time the representatives of the landlords and Orangemen complained that the measures taken by the Government were not sufficiently strong to prevent disorder. What did they say now? They complained because an Orange demonstration which the Government considered was dangerous to the peace, and which was to have taken place at Rostrevor, was proclaimed. In the speech of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, and that of the hon. Member who seconded his Motion, three points were raised. They were the case of Sergeant Sheridan, land purchase in Ireland, and the coercive measures now in force, and with the exception of the meeting at Rostrevor, the debate had been more or less confined to those three points. He considered the case of Sergeant Sheridan a most unfortunate one, but he confessed that he, and many others on his side of the House, after having listened to the various debates upon this case, were heartily tired of Sergeant Sheridan. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: You have only had the beginning of him.] The Leader of the Irish Party had told them that the object in continually raising this question was that the details of this case might be published far and wide wherever Irishmen existed. There was, however, one result of this constant repetition which had perhaps been overlooked, and it was that some of them were beginning to think that all these other cases which had been spoken of, and of which, the House was told, that of Sergeant Sheridan was only an example, either did not exist, or that the Members of the Irish Party were unable to produce them. With the exception of a man named Whelehan, which occurred 15 years

ago, they had had no other instance given during the debate of a similar case taking place among the Irish Constabulary in Ireland. He thought he might almost venture to congratulate the Government upon this fact, because the Irish Party admittedly were desirous of finding similar cases, but were unable to produce any other. This one case of Sheridan was the only instance which could be produced of that "mass of villainy and corruption" which the hon. and learned Member said was rampant among the Irish Constabulary. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: How many examples do you want?] He ventured to think that the Chief Secretary had had before him a hopeless task, and one almost deplored that he took so sanguine a view of the situation as to bring in a Bill which was calculated to meet with the bitterest opposition from the Party opposite. He recollected a speech made before that Bill was brought to the House, in which a Gentleman now sitting opposite, not even knowing what that Bill was intended to promote, or what its conditions were to be, told his constituents that when the Bill was produced the only way to treat it was to spit upon it. That speech convinced him that, however anxious the Chief Secretary might be for the good of the country, and whatever remedies he might wish to propose for the troubles which existed, and whatever Bill he might introduce, his efforts would be received with premeditated opposition and contempt by these ungrateful agitators. What would be the result, even if he brought in a Bill for compulsory purchase? In a speech which the hon. Member for East Mayo made in the North of Ireland, he said, in connection with compulsory purchase—

"If I believed the farmers of Ireland, when they got their land, would sit down as the willing slaves of an alien Government, I would leave them, as far as I am concerned, under the harrow of landlords for ever. As far as I am concerned, I am an advocate for the abolition of landlordism mainly and chiefly because I believe that with landlordism goes the chief prop of the British Government in Ireland."

To Englishmen, compulsory purchase was synonymous with confiscation. The members of the Irish Party complained when a different standard of legislation was applied in Ireland from that which was enforced in England. He ventured to think that no one in

England, in his wildest imagination, would ever suggest that a man's property should be taken away against his will, and that he should only be paid such remuneration as would return to him an income barely half that which he would enjoy if he held his property. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about the railway companies in this country?] In England, when property was taken compulsorily, a fair value was allowed to the man from whom it was taken. He ventured to say that, if the same rule was applied in Ireland, so that approximately the same return of income would be given to the landlord to enable him to pay the interests and those unfortunate charges which existed so much on Irish property, and at the same time allowed him sufficient to avoid starving, no compulsion would be necessary, and the land throughout the length and breadth of the country would change from the landlords to the tenants. That the coercive measures of the Government were justified, he thought anyone would admit who had followed the speeches which had been made by Members opposite when in Ireland. He would venture to give one more quotation to show this. In a paper called the *Irish People* the hon. Member for East Clare was reported to have said—

"Not all the police in Ireland, not all the Army in England, not even if they brought Kitchener with his whole gang (groans)—that is, if he had got any of them left, which he (Mr. Redmond) doubted very much—not all the power of England can make them talk to, or walk with, or sell or buy from, or go next or near, any scabby land-grabber."

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I am sure the hon. Gentleman will allow me to say that the quotation which he has just read of my words is absolutely accurate, but I think, in order to be fair, he should have gone on to quote that portion of my speech which I delivered to my constituency in which I warned and exhorted the people to have nothing whatever to do with outrage or violence in any way, and to conduct their movement upon the lines on which the trades unionists conduct their movements in this country.

*MR. HARRIS said that to his mind such speeches as those he had quoted were the justification of any coercive

measures the Government might bring into force to prevent the inciting of an ignorant and poor peasantry to forms of cruelty more abominable than even recognised crime.

*(4.8.) MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said he should have expected to hear something better in the way of a speech than that to which they had just listened on behalf of a Government which embraced so many able men both above and below the gangway. He thought it was a somewhat unfortunate position that a new administration, from which they were entitled to have a definite expression of policy, should be left to the support of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. They were all glad to recognise nascent talent on the other side, and they acknowledged that rising Members should get an opportunity of expressing themselves; but he thought the hon. Member, in liberating his soul, would have given greater sustenance to the right hon. Gentleman. While the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down was in his cradle, they had exactly the same speeches from that side. If he would turn to *Hansard* any time for the past five-and-twenty years, he could read, almost in the exact words, the same kind of feeble support of the Government and the same kind of feeble attacks upon the Irish Members. Permit him to say that he thought that at the beginning of the career of a new administration, on the appointment of a new Prime Minister, they had some reason to complain of the total absence of the First Lord of the Treasury in these controversies. In former times, when a new Ministry was inducted, it was always customary on the part of the Opposition to challenge the Government for their policy in regard to cardinal matters of administration. During the whole of this debate, so far, the First Lord of the Treasury, the new Prime Minister, had remained away, with the exception of one hour, conspicuously from the House of Commons, denying to the Chief Secretary that support and comradeship to which, as a new member of the Cabinet, he should have supposed the right hon. Gentleman was entitled, and leaving him to the support of dolorous, dissonant eloquence such as they had just heard. Where were the

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other members of the Cabinet? Hitherto, this question of Ireland had been supposed to be worthy of some attention.

In regard to the question of Sergeant Sheridan, he thought that the Chief Secretary had acted very well indeed up to a particular point. He would go further, and say that, but for him, they would have been entirely in the dark as to the crimes this man committed. But he failed to see what answer, for his own credit's sake and for the credit's sake of his own administration, he had now to make to the demand that the criminal should be brought to justice. With the disclosures they were now acquainted with, why did he not put the law of extradition in force and put Sheridan on his trial? They all remembered how this House used to be excited in regard to Mr. Jabez Balfour, a member of the Liberal Party in this House, who defrauded some poor people of several thousands of pounds. Every day the Liberal Party were asked why they did not bring Jabez Balfour to trial, and the whole resources of civilisation were employed, and thousands of pounds were spent, in regard to the case of Jabez Balfour, because, being a Liberal Member of Parliament, it was thought that dirt could be thrown on his Party. There was a Liberal peer the other day who went and contracted an irregular marriage in Arizona. It was not alone that they tried Lord Russell for what he ventured to say, English morality being what it was, was a mere trumpery crime; but they set up in the House of Lords a special chamber to try him, and for that fine pageant they put the country to an expense of several thousand pounds. He would not go into other cases, but they were numerous. Here, in regard to a matter on which the opinion of the House of Commons was unanimous—namely, that they were dealing with a base and shocking criminal—he should have supposed that the Government, in their own interest, would have been glad to have vindicated the Royal Irish Constabulary by giving Mr. Sheridan what he demanded—a full inquiry. Why was it not done? If they could have the truth about this matter, the Chief Secretary had a much better defence to make—only he could not make it—than he had given to the House. He ventured

to say that this was what had occurred: The Chief Secretary was young and ingenuous when he went to Ireland. He detected this man red-handed in convicting, one after another, four innocent men. One of the judges was involved in it, many policemen were involved in it; and he was probably told by older officials that he had burned his fingers, and that he had better go no farther, because, if he did, he (the hon. Member) believed the whole fabric of the Royal Irish Constabulary would fall to the ground. He would say this: Well as the right hon. Gentleman up to this point had acted, he did not believe they would ever have heard of Sheridan's crime, but that Sheridan was a Catholic, and that Irwin, his sub-inspector, was a Protestant. If Sheridan had been a Protestant, he would be still holding high office in the Royal Irish Constabulary. He did not say this as against the right hon. Gentleman, for he believed he was entirely free from bigotry. He was speaking of the immediate chiefs of this man; and every one of them, from the highest to the lowest, and every engine of the Royal Irish Constabulary, would have been set in motion in order to screen him. Why did the Government not try him now? He did not believe they could convict Sheridan now, and that was probably what was also in the mind of the Chief Secretary, because of the class of jurors which they got in Ireland. Did they think they would give the Nationalists a triumph? Did they think the Crown Prosecutors would give the Nationalists a triumph? Did they think that the judges would be anxious to throw dirt on the decision of one of their own number when he had harangued the jury for the conviction of the unfortunate M'Goohan? No; the old Jugger-naut car of British justice in Ireland was not made to "reverse engines!" They could not grow figs on thorns, and they could not get justice in Ireland in a case of this kind. He maintained that there was a horrid contrast between the fairness of the justice administered to ordinary criminals—thieves, garroters, prostitutes—and the justice administered the moment anything approaching to an attack was made upon a landlord, upon an intolerant Protestant, or the moment in which any member of the ascendancy class was involved. In any of these latter cases there was no chance for any man to get justice in Ireland.

The right hon. Gentleman, he must say, made a very brilliant speech last night, but he regretted its tone and its temper. The right hon. Gentleman was, as he understood — although as yet there was no official knowledge of the fact—to be put in that cabinet with sole charge of Irish administration. Well, they were told that the Chief Secretary's office was a thankless office. Fifty years ago Dan O'Connell said that the Chief Secretary's office was that of a "shavebeggars," that it was an office into which a man was put while he was learning his duties for other posts. That was the misfortune of the position. He could remember 13 different Chief Secretaries in 22 years, and in that time they had spent a million of money on the Chief Secretary's office, and another million on the Lord Lieutenant's office; and the only change that he could find that they had made—the only reform which they had brought about in the case of Dublin Castle—was that they had saved the salary of one kettledrummer—amount, £12 10s. For the twenty-two years they had been debating Castle reform, that was, as far as he knew, the sole result of the attacks they had made on the Castle system. He was saying that the right hon. Gentleman, in his tone and temper last night, was ill-advised. Perhaps from the right hon. Gentleman's point of view it was not unnatural for him to say that Nationalist Members were "more apt to excite the passions of the Irish peasantry by rhetoric than to convince the House of Commons by argument." Did any one suppose that if, instead of eighty Irish Members—picked up, owing to the necessities of the case, from the desk, the shop, the counter, and the farm—they had eighty Demosthenes, all speaking with the tongues of angels—did the Committee think that they could make any impression on the hon. Member who had just sat down? He must say that, when, in the course of time, the hon. Member was rewarded—of course, he did not know when that would be, but when he was rewarded with a position on the Treasury Bench—he might, perhaps, be even Chief Secretary: he was just the timber that Chief Secretaries were made out of—he ventured to say that his invincible ignorance would cling round him still. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Irish Nationalist

Members could not argue with the House of Commons. One would think, from what the right hon. Gentleman said, that it was the House of Commons which ruled Ireland. It was not the House of Commons that ruled Ireland; it was the House of Lords. What representation had they in the House of Lords? They might send Bill after Bill affecting Ireland from this House up to the House of Lords, but these would be smothered in that lethal chamber, and scarcely a bubble would rise above the surface to denote their asphyxiation. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary, he was quite sure, was carrying out a policy in which he did not believe. It was forced upon him by Lord Londonderry and his friends. Did any man on the Conservative Benches believe that, if an Irish Chief Secretary could have his way, and could rule Ireland from his own personal point of view, he would rule it from the point of view that the present Chief Secretary was doing now? The right hon. Gentleman dropped something yesterday which they heard on these Benches. The right hon. Gentleman was asked something about providing money for land purchase; and he was heard to exclaim under his breath, "How could I get over Beach?" That was the trouble: he could not get over Beach. But he had many another five-barred gate to get over. There was Balfour, and Long, and Hanbury.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order!

*MR. T. M. HEALY said that of course he used their names as cyphers. He did not mean to offend the right hon. Gentlemen in the slightest degree, and he had the highest admiration for all of them. What he was going to say was—how was the right hon. Gentleman to get over Lord Londonderry? The Chief Secretary, in order to bring about any reform in Ireland, had either to threaten a Cabinet crisis, or be assisted from Ireland by a blunderbuss. There was no other alternative. The wheels of legislation were clogged. They had their own English Bills, their Water Bills, Education Bills, Electric Railway Bills, and all their other Bills, year

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after year. They had their own interests to consider, and the notion that one man in the Cabinet dealing with the urgent affairs of Ireland with nineteen ignorant Englishmen could overcome the *vis inertia* of these nineteen Gentlemen was an absurd suggestion. Then it was said that the Irish Members had to argue with the House of Commons. No, Sir, they did not come there to argue. He had never argued on anything in this House, and he never would. They came there to state their opinions, and they told the Government to take the consequences. That was the position they assumed. But he had some hope with regard to the Irish Land question, though all of them on this side did not see eye to eye on that question—that the right hon. Gentleman would have been able, with his great experience of Ireland, to demand, as a right, a competent portion of time for debating Irish interests. That was denied to them. What became, then, of the Act of Union? They did not come there to discuss Estimates. What was it to him whether the right hon. Gentleman got £5,000 a year or £500 a year? That was for himself to consider. They did not come there to discuss Africa; they came there to talk about their own parishes and their own counties. They did not care a groat for the British Empire. The British Empire could take care of itself. They were there to look after the small concerns of the daily life of the people of their country. They had no other concern under heaven. England destroyed their little Parliament. England took it away by corrupting the very same gang which were now in the ascendancy. It was not the common people who sold the Irish Parliament. It was the predecessors of Lord Londonderry and his friends who sold it for gain. They asked from the Government a competent portion of time to discuss the affairs of their island. He had said years ago in this House that if they took out a volume of the statutes passed in any year by this miserable Ascendency Parliament in Ireland which was destroyed—and remember every one of these men were Protestants, belonging to the little narrow ascendancy knot who were the curse of the country—that, bad and all as they were, these statutes, mottled though

they were with Coercion Acts from time to time, contained on almost every page something about canals, roads, piers, harbours, fisheries, grazings—something about lightening the taxes, something in the interests of the country. All the noble public buildings in Ireland were erected by the Irish Parliament. But what had this Parliament done for Ireland? It was said by some one in Russia that when England was expelled from India nothing would be left as a monument of English rule but railways and soda water bottles. There would not be even the soda water bottles in Ireland; and as for the railways, these had been turned into an engine of oppression of the Irish people. Turn to the statutes today, passed by this great civilised Parliament, this Parliament of the Empire—go back for any period of the last century—and what was the attention they had given to this neglected, this miserable Ireland, this sick child of the British Empire? He ventured to say that if one Act a year was passed for the benefit of Ireland, forty were passed for Great Britain, leaving out of account altogether the hundreds of private Acts passed for the benefit of the municipalities and big towns. How many Bills per annum would a native Parliament enact for Ireland in all these years? Would the burning question of the moment be handled there as it is treated here? This Land question was so simple as to be almost ridiculous. It was so simple that even the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down knew something about it, because he had said it was simply a question of price. They asked for a fair amount of time to deal with the matter; they spoke as the representatives of the Irish nation, the representatives of "My brave Irish soldiers" who fought so well in Africa, and so many of whom were now in the poorhouses in Ireland. But the answer they got was, "No, we have no time for your trumpety affairs." But while he demanded that the Irish Land question should be dealt with as a whole, because his constituency was as much entitled to legislation as any other part of the country, this terrible horror on the De Freyne estate was a measurable question which could be dealt with by the application of a few thousand pounds. Why was it not forthcoming? Two hundred and fifty million pounds had been sunk

in the sands of Africa to please the Jews and to get the franchise for the Uitlanders. Where was the Uitlander now? But when Irish Members asked not for two hundred and fifty or fifty millions but only for a few millions to deal with this terrible question in Connaught, the answer was, "Oh, no, we cannot do anything out of the British Treasury." His generous English friends should remember how Ireland was being robbed all this time. Ten million pounds were being extracted year after year out of the country for the upkeep of "Sergeants Sheridan," with no good that any human soul could see resulting from the existence of British Government in Ireland. He would rather that the Turks were there. He would cheerfully exchange the rule of the Sultan for that of His Majesty King Edward VII. He would, at any rate, make a trial of him, and see how they could get on with the Bashi Bazouks.

A more appalling system of administration was never inflicted on any country. It was impossible to know where the Government of Ireland was. In fact, there was no Government. There were a few gaugers taking in the money, and a few policemen for putting agitators into jail, and that was the sum total of Government in Ireland. There was no paternal administration, no shepherding of the industries and interests of the people. He was surprised at the fuss the English made about law and order in Ireland. The Chief Secretary yesterday held up his hands in holy horror because some speeches which he did not like were made in the Cork Court House. One would have thought that the Ark of the Covenant had been violated. The right hon. Gentleman declared that a grave scandal had been committed. What was the grave scandal? Every stone of the Court House was paid for by the ratepayers' money. It was their Court House just as much as that hat [The hon. Member held up his hat] was his hat; and the grave scandal consisted in the fact that the representatives of the ratepayers gave an hour's shelter to a number of gentlemen whose speeches they were anxious to hear. According to the view which seemed to prevail, the

sheriff should have ordered the constabulary to fix bayonets and drive out of that polluted temple of justice, sacred to the oaths of "Sergeants Sheridan," the leaders of the Irish people. That was the reasonable position taken up by the Chief Secretary. It was an absolutely hopeless position. There was not, so far as he knew, a single ounce of sense in the Government of Ireland. Could not the Government quietly take the ten millions a year out of the pockets of the Irish people, and leave them alone? Could they not make a ring, and see fair play between landlord and tenant? Lord de Freyne had commenced an action against his hon. friends on the civil side of the Court. Why did not the Government leave him to his remedy? Lord De Freyne, who, presumably, was well advised, said that he could recover heavy damages in the Chancery Division against everybody who had taken money out of his pocket. Why, in addition to that, did the Government give the Nationalist Members the plank bed to boot? Was that holding the scales evenly? Why, when they robbed the Irish people of this £10,000,000 a year, and got the Irish soldiers to enlist in their regiments, did not the Government leave these great proprietors alone to fight out their battle with their tenants, instead of coming in and throwing the Sword and the Crown into the scale on behalf of landlords like Lord De Freyne? His views on this Land question, as well as on the conduct of public affairs, were such that it was not easy for him, differing as he did as to details of policy in many respects from some of his hon. friends on that side of the House, to state without conflict, which he wished to avoid, what he thought ought to be done for the Irish tenants. He certainly conceived that when they got down to the machinery of purchase it was largely a question of price. He believed that if they could get the landlords to leave their case, such as it was, in the hands of skilled and temperate men—who, after all, could be obtained for a consideration—and, on the other side, the representatives of the tenants to put forward their case, they could settle three-fourths of the Irish

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Land question, and that whatever be-draggled tail remained behind the English people would be quite willing to deal with on the lines of compulsory purchase. But much as he differed from some of his hon. friends as to some of their recent action the notion that the Irish people could be dragooned and driven by Coercion Acts was absolutely absurd. There was no justification whatever for the proclamation of the Coercion Act. He had stated in a former debate that a Coercion proclamation should not issue unless the Government were able to make a case for a Coercion Act in this House. No such case had been made, and the right hon. Gentleman was in the unhappy position of being, with good intentions and instincts, powerless to deal with the Land question; and he would go, as other Chief Secretaries before him had gone, either to promotion or to—he would not say perdition—somewhere else. Let him remember, however, when he had only Coercion to offer that there was no more ungrateful gang under the sun of heaven than the Irish landlords. The right hon. Gentleman would be broken on the wheel in this conflict with the Irish people, or he would be promoted, he did not know which. After he had excited the ire and indignation of the Irish people and their representatives, the landlords would turn on him as they turned on his predecessors. He had seen the present Prime Minister standing on the steps of the throne in the House of Lords, with his face as white as paper, while his uncle, Lord Salisbury, was appealing to the Irish landlord gang not to throw out a Water Bill, which they were anxious to do, because it would add 3d. a thousand gallons to the contribution of Kingstown and Pembroke to the City of Dublin. The late Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, appealed to the Irish Peers to stand by their own Chief Secretary, who had stood by them in regard to the Coercion Act in Ireland, but they derided that appeal from their own Prime Minister, although he told them that if the Bill was not carried the Chief Secretary would resign; and the Clonbrocks and the Londonderrys, and the rest of this piteous collection in this Chamber of Horrors went into the Lobby against the Chief Secretary for Ireland

on the question of 3d. per thousand gallons for Dublin water, and they were prepared to ruin him and break him on the wheel in order to gratify the wishes of a little ascendancy gang which is the curse of Ireland. The hon. Member concluded: I do not know what question will come up, but the present Chief Secretary will get from the landlords exactly the same treatment as his predecessors. The Irish Question will still remain, after all your Coercion Acts, to baffle British officials. The Irish people have staggered along this thorny road for a century with bleeding feet, now gaining, now losing, now driven back, but never despairing. After all these years you have not brought them one whit nearer to your Empire. You have not won the allegiance of a man of them; and you yourselves by your own policy, in order to please a number of men who are no credit to you, who have done nothing in England, nothing for your arts, industries or discoveries, who have not even led your armies—for the sake of these men, and the miserable considerations that lie at the root of this conflict of centuries which they have waged against us, you deny yourselves the affections of as brave and gallant a people as were ever seen on the face of this earth.

(4.50.) MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he wished to draw attention to one specific case. The hon. Gentleman who spoke last but one complained that in the course of this debate the Irish Members had brought forward only a very few cases of grievances, but the reason for that was that only a few Irish Members had spoken. There was not a single Irish Member in the House of Commons who could not bring from his own personal experience cases in connection with the Constabulary and their system of governing Ireland, which would shock the mind of any impartial person either inside or outside of the House of Commons. After the eloquent speeches which they had heard from the Irish Benches, he would only refer to one case which he regarded as a police outrage, which occurred in his own presence and with which he was to some extent connected. Those English Members who had recently visited Ireland had been shocked because they were "shadowed" by the Royal Irish Constabulary, but what would English

Members think if, instead of being "shadowed," they were brutally and outrageously assaulted by the police and prevented from addressing the people who wanted to hear them? Last October he attended a public meeting at Kilmaine, in South Mayo, which had not been proclaimed, accompanied by the Member for the Division. The audience consisted mainly of farmers and labourers. The meeting had hardly commenced before a police officer pushed his way through the crowd at the head of fifty or sixty policemen armed with rifles. He came up to the platform, and addressing him said, "You are a stranger, but I have heard that your name is Mr. Redmond." He then gave notice that he would allow him to speak, but that he would not permit the hon. Member for South Mayo to address the meeting. He had seen many exciting scenes in Ireland, but he had never before seen a Member of Parliament ordered by a common police inspector not to address the men who sent him to Parliament. That was exactly what took place, and what was reported in all the newspapers. The meeting proceeded, and he spoke strongly and without any hesitation whatever, but when the Member for the district rose to speak, the officer in charge of the police at once gave the word, and the Member for South Mayo was seized and dragged away with the greatest possible violence to the police station, where he was kept in charge. And his only crime was that he wished to address a meeting of the men who had cast their votes for him. Not satisfied with dragging this Member of Parliament through the streets and preventing him from addressing his constituents, this police officer gave orders to charge the crowd. The crowd had come together without any prohibition; they had not been warned that the meeting was illegal; they were an ordinary crowd come to an ordinary meeting in the ordinary way, and the police dispersed them in the most violent and outrageous way, driving men and women right and left and beating them and knocking them down, and several persons were seriously injured. When the crowd was dispersed, he walked up to the police station where his hon. friend the Member for South Mayo was in custody. He spoke

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very strongly to the police, and told them they had no right to detain his friend without there being a charge against him, and, after some hesitation, the police released his hon. friend. Later in the evening he again addressed a meeting in the village, in order to test the question, and he asked the police officer to say by whose orders he prevented the hon. Member for South Mayo from speaking, and told him that he himself was prepared to say everything that the hon. Member could say, and he challenged the officer to lay a finger upon him. Again he was allowed to speak, and again the hon. Member for South Mayo courageously insisted on asserting his right to speak to his constituents. Again the police were ordered forward, and again the hon. Member was seized and torn away from the meeting, and again the people were batoned and bludgeoned and beaten right and left, a man standing by him on the platform being struck on the head and beaten when he had fallen to the ground, and having one hand broken. The Committee would bear in mind that this was not a proclaimed meeting, and that no notice or warning of any kind had been given to these people. He had been to many proclaimed meetings, and the people who attended them who were injured were not injured without some warning; they had some inkling of the treatment which might be meted out to them. In this case there was no warning whatever. The Protestant clergyman of the village, a man who could not be described as being partial to the Nationalists, was present at the meeting and watched what took place. That gentleman subsequently wrote to the papers complaining that the report published was exaggerated, but he did not deny any of the facts stated in it; he only said the people had not been so much injured, and there had not been so much disturbance as the report stated.

But that was not all that occurred, and he pledged his personal honour and reputation on the statement he was about to make. After these two futile attempts to address a meeting in this village, they mounted the wagonette and drove out of the village. Immediately the police officer ordered a large number of police

to follow them on cars. As they drove out of the village they came upon a large crowd of people, also going away from the meeting, and all those people did was to raise three cheers for their Party representative and for the United Irish League; no attempt was made to speak; these people only cheered their Member. The police leapt from the cars and at once charged the people, beating them wherever they could; the people scrambled over the ditches on each side of the road and ran as far away as they could. That surely might have been considered sufficient to satisfy the police; but, no! the police pursued them over several fields, and he was so horrified and disgusted at what he had seen that he would not trust the description of it to any newspaper reporter, and he telegraphed directly he reached a telegraph office a statement of what he had seen. That statement had never been contradicted, and upon that statement he staked his character and reputation. The Chief Secretary and the Attorney General knew no more of what took place at Kilmaine from their own personal knowledge than they knew of what took place at the capture of Pretoria. What was the result? They applied to their police officer who would, no doubt, give his version of what took place—the police officer who did these things, against whom he made this charge—and that illustrated what took place in Ireland. The police behaved in this way; their conduct was condoned by the Irish Government; Members of Parliament laid a solemn complaint, and their complaint was set aside upon the report of the police officer who was guilty of the act. What reason was there for this action on the part of the police? He had never been in the district before, and was ignorant of any circumstances that would render the meeting undesirable. There was the fact that there was an evicted farm in the neighbourhood, but that was no justification for the police following the people who came to hear an address from their Member of Parliament. He applied to the Chief Secretary to look into these matters, and give an assurance in this House that innocent people should not without warning, proclamation, or notice of some sort, be beaten and driven as he saw these

unhappy people of Mayo driven, whose only crime was listening to the man they had elected to serve them in Parliament.

(5.25) MR. ASQUITH (Fife, E.): I agree—and I am afraid it is the only remark with which I do agree—with one observation made by the hon. gentleman who spoke from the Benches opposite a few moments ago, that it is both the right and duty of members who represent English and Scottish constituencies to take part in these debates, remembering that this Imperial Parliament in which Ireland is represented governs Ireland today, as it has done in the main ever since the Union, in accordance not with Irish but with English and Scottish opinion. We should therefore, I think, be neglecting the responsibility which the Constitution casts upon us if we did not vigilantly scrutinise, when proper opportunity offers, and unflinchingly criticise, the action of the Irish Executive. I am not going to deal with any of those larger questions of general policy which, not unnaturally, have occupied some share, at any rate, in this debate; but I am going to confine myself to one particular point, I mean the case of the man Sheridan. I shall speak of that case very briefly, and I hope dispassionately, and as it presents itself, not to an Irishman either on one side or the other, but to one who has some acquaintance with English law and the principles of English administration. I need not say that I do not associate myself in the least with some of the charges which have been made against the Chief Secretary in relation to this matter, or with the suggestion, which I do not think is really seriously put forward, that the Chief Secretary acted at any stage in these proceedings from a desire to screen guilty persons, or to prevent further disclosures, if they could have been made—a suggestion which is not only *prima facie* incredible, but is contradicted by all the materials the House has before it. On the contrary, I will start by saying that to the right hon. gentleman is due the entire and undivided credit of having unearthed and unmasked these villainies.—for villainies they were—which had been going on undetected, and, as far as we know, unsuspected for years past, and had resulted in the conviction of

three, if not four, entirely innocent persons. I gather that the hon. Gentleman opposite, to whom I referred, and his friends are tired of hearing of this case; but I think that is not a very creditable sentiment. If this case had happened anywhere but in Ireland, if it had happened in any colony, if it had happened here in England, it would have been a very long time before the House of Commons would have ceased talking—and rightly talking—about it, until it was satisfied that every step had been taken that policy and statesmanship could suggest, not only to bring the offender to justice, but to prevent the possibility of the offence recurring. I am sure the Chief Secretary will not demur from what I have been saying so far; and great credit is due to the right hon. Gentleman for the steps he took in investigating this matter, and probing it as far as he could. I also agree that after the case of Ryan, when suspicion seemed first to be aroused, there was not adequate material in the possession of the right hon. Gentleman, or of the Irish Executive, to justify a prosecution. I think it extremely probable that the result of the prosecution would have been the acquittal of Sheridan, and it might have stopped all those further disclosures that have taken place, and have rendered Sheridan himself at any rate incapable of doing further mischief in Ireland. Nor do I think that the right hon. Gentleman was wrong—and I do not believe that my hon. friend the Member for Mayo will differ from me here—in the circumstances in ordering a secret inquiry. I think it extremely doubtful whether an open public inquiry would not have defeated the purpose which the right hon. Gentleman had in view. And, therefore, putting myself so far as I can in his place, and supposing I had had to deal with a similar situation, up to that point I do not see how any one could have done differently.

But now I come to the points on which it appears to me that the action of the Executive is open, not only to criticism, but to censure. They are three. In the first place I think it was a great mistake that the right hon. Gentleman should have left to some subordinates of his—for so I understand the statement he made last night—the task of formulating the terms of the indemnity which should

draw confession from the accomplices of Sergeant Sheridan. Could you have a more delicate and difficult matter than that? Here were the men who *ex hypothesi* were accomplices or accessories to the crime. They were to be tempted to come forward and give evidence—evidence which, I agree, they could not have been compelled to give at the trial, for no man can be compelled to convict himself. Everybody knows that that is a most difficult situation indeed; and it appears to me that what the right hon. Gentleman ought to have done was to insist that he himself should first carefully consider, and then as carefully formulate, the terms on which these men were to be invited to come forward. We do not now know what those terms were; but it would rather seem, from the interpretation which the right hon. Gentleman puts upon them, that they must have been so vague—I was going to say so mischievously and fatally comprehensive—that they actually, in his view, put him under a moral or honourable obligation to reinstate in the police force, or in a position in which they would receive the same emoluments, these men who, by their own admission, were accomplices in most disgraceful and criminal breaches of trust. Therefore, my first criticism is that the form of indemnity was one which ought to have been most carefully safeguarded by himself, and that the course pursued was a course of laxity, which has led, I cannot but think, to regrettable and discreditable consequences.

But my next criticism is of a more serious nature. An inquiry was held. Evidence was given that convinced the right hon. Gentleman, and I have no doubt rightly so, that Sheridan had been for years engaged in the systematic manufacture of bogus crimes, and, what is still more serious, in the organised and deliberate conviction of innocent men. I need not use rhetorical language to describe that which, by the unanimous judgment of this House, is one of the basest and foulest crimes it is possible to bring home to a human being. When you have a minister of the law abusing the trust which the State has reposed in him, and you get, what it is no exaggeration to call the stream of justice polluted at its very source, no action that the Executive can take can be too strong, no

punishment you can inflict can be too severe, and no measure of precaution against the recurrence of similar things can be too vigilant or drastic. What was the course the right hon. Gentleman should have taken? I do not hesitate to say—and I have never uttered an opinion in this House with a clearer conviction of its truth—I do not hesitate to say that at all costs he ought to have prosecuted Sheridan. I do not care for this purpose what the precise form of the charge was. There were many charges that could have been made—such as perjury or conspiracy to defeat the ends of justice. It would not take the ingenuity of a skilled lawyer to frame half a dozen indictments against him. But I do not care what the precise form of the charge was; I do not even care if, in consequence of what I call the regrettable laxity in regard to the form of the indemnity, the evidence given at the trial by the accomplices did not come up to the mark. I think in such a case you would have had plenty of evidence. You would have had the evidence of this unfortunate man McGoohan, whose most pathetic and moving statement the hon. Member for East Mayo read in the House today. I do not think it possible for the imagination to conceive a more terrible position than that in which McGoohan was placed, except, indeed—for there is one more terrible still—the position of that still more unfortunate innocent man who, on the advice of his solicitor, pleaded guilty to a crime which he had never committed. I cannot help thinking that there is not a jury in Ireland—you would not need what is called a packed jury—who, if Sheridan had been put on his trial and these men had told their story, even if the corroborative evidence of the accomplices was open, as it would have been, to much observation, would not have convicted him; and there is not a judge in Ireland that would not have been glad to pass on him the heaviest sentence that the law allows. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: You don't know them.] I say that because I am certain there is not a judge on the Irish Bench who would not feel it his duty to do so. I deeply regret that the right hon. Gentleman let that opportunity slip; and I must say I cannot think that even now all is being

done or has been done that might be done to bring about the conviction of Sheridan. Where is he? I understand he is somewhere on the other side of the Atlantic, and the presumption is that he is in some country or other between which and this kingdom there is a treaty of extradition. Reference was made by my hon. friend the Member for North Louth to the case of Jabez Balfour. I remember it well. I was at the Home Office at the time; and, as my hon. friend truly said, we were assailed month after month, week after week, almost day after day, with Questions in this House and comments in the Press, for our supposed slackness in trying to obtain the extradition of Jabez Balfour. He was in a country where there was no extradition treaty at all, or at all events none relating to the crime of which he was guilty; but at any rate we did succeed after a long and laborious task, and at much expense, in bringing him back to this country. If that could be done in a case of that kind, infinitely more difficult than this, why cannot you, if Sheridan is in a country with which an extradition treaty exists, and if he has committed extraditable crimes—why cannot you demand his extradition even now, and have him brought before an Irish judge and jury to answer for his crimes?

My third criticism on the action of the right hon. Gentleman is this. I give him full credit for scrupulous observance of an honourable obligation, but I cannot help thinking that he has made a great mistake in putting these officers who were accomplices and accessories in the crime of Sheridan back into the police force. I do not think any promise of indemnity—certainly no promise of indemnity that was properly and reasonably framed—could possibly have imposed on the Government the obligation of bringing back into their service men who, by their own admission, had been proved guilty of a gross dereliction of duty. I am sure it would give great satisfaction to the Committee and to the House of Commons and to public opinion outside if the right hon. Gentleman, on both points to which I have referred, would now reassure us, namely, that, whatever happens, these officers will not be regarded as in any sense members of the public service in

Ireland, and, secondly, that the deplorable omission made at the time in the failure to prosecute Sheridan is now about to be repaired, and that if he can be discovered in the country where he is thought to be he would be brought back to Ireland, and there made amenable to justice for the heinous offences which he has committed.

(5.40.) MR. HARRINGTON (Dublin, Harbour) said the Leader of the House, now that attention had been called to the Sheridan case, ought to impress upon the Chief Secretary the necessity of taking steps to see whether there were not other cases of abuse. The Chief Secretary, on the previous evening, made a speech leading the House to believe that this was a perfectly isolated case. There was nothing singular about the case except the fact that this was the first occasion on which the Irish Government had acted with reference to those men who had been inciting to commit crime. The wonder was, not that the case had not been prosecuted, but that the case of Sheridan had been exposed by the Irish Government at all. The case of Sheridan was not nearly so glaring a case as that of Sergeant Sullivan, which occurred a short while ago. In the case of Sheridan there was no incitement to murder. In the case of Sergeant Sullivan there was a letter written to which a name was forged, urging an acquaintance of the person whose name was forged to go and raid a house and to shoot the man inside the house. The evidence was perfectly clear. He had the documents in his own hand, and if the Chief Secretary would examine them he would find that the forged letter was written by a man who was still in the police force. In Ireland they knew perfectly well that there were such cases as that of Sheridan, from time to time, in which no prosecutions had taken place. He was engaged in the case of Sullivan but the proofs happened to come under his notice, and in a subsequent trial some witnesses who were being examined stated that, under the sanction of the county inspector and of the district inspector, the whole constabulary force of the district had subscribed to the fund for the defence of Sergeant Sullivan, who was tried before a Sligo jury. And that brought him back to

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the question of jury packing. The right hon. Gentleman said, where was the use of admitting men into the jury box to whom the doctrines of the Irish Land League had been preached, and who were in sympathy with these principles? But on the same principle the Attorney General ought to exclude from the jury box men who were the sworn lifelong opponents of the principles of the United Irish League. Every Nationalist, and every man who was supposed to be in sympathy with the United Irish League organisation, was excluded from the jury. Of course the result was that this packed jury told the judge they wished to hear no more evidence, and acquitted Sergeant Sullivan. If the right hon. Gentleman was anxious to go back on the history of the Royal Irish Constabulary, the Irish Members could give him a number of cases where the suspicion was strong in the public mind that this system of manufacturing evidence had been organised by members of the Royal Irish Constabulary who were desirous of getting promotion. The temptation was very great. The men with whom they had to deal were the landlords and magistrates in the district, and the constables naturally wanted to make friends of them. If the Irish Executive was not sufficiently strong to inquire closely into cases where suspicion was aroused and their attention was directed to them, these officers could go on with their evil practices with impunity. There could be no doubt that constables had invited threatening letters to be written, and the case of O'Halloran was notorious in County Clare. That man had been going round with money in his pocket to all the fairs, asking people to join in moonlight meetings.

He did not want to blame the Chief Secretary. That right hon. Gentleman differed from all his predecessors, in that he had the courage to probe Sheridan's case to the bottom. The Irish Members invited the right hon. Gentleman to go a step further, and make an inquiry into the whole system; and if the right hon. Gentleman was anxious, to show that the police force in Ireland was above suspicion, the Irish members would assist him. If the Chief Secretary would only take the trouble to go through

the papers in the Sullivan case, he would find that it was worse than that of Sheridan. The right hon. Gentleman the Attorney General for Ireland had made the extraordinary statement that the government of Ireland could not be carried on without jury packing. What the Irish Members said was, that if England could not govern Ireland without jury packing, then they should give up governing Ireland. English Members could not realise what the system of challenging jurors was in Ireland. In an ordinary trial in England there was no challenging. The right was there, of course, but it was hardly ever exercised. He would give a concrete case. Two men from County Mayo were tried at Sligo for conspiracy in connection with the United Irish League. The panel of jurors that was to try them consisted of 258 men. Such a panel in a criminal case was absolutely unknown in England. Why were 258 jurors called? To enable the Government to challenge 246 of them before they selected their twelve jurymen to go into the box. Under such a system there was no man, however innocent, who could get a fair trial, especially where political differences were so strong as they were in Ireland. On that panel, out of the 268, 168 were Catholics, and not one of them was admitted to the jury box, simply because the men to be tried were Catholics; and the jury which did try them were exclusively Protestants. As a matter of fact, the men were found guilty; but the foreman of the jury, when announcing the verdict, said that they wished to recommend the men to mercy, because they were the dupes of the United Irish League. Again, there was the case of the hon. Member for North Leitrim who was brought to trial in Dublin. The jury panel consisted of forty-eight, but only twenty-eight answered to their names; and the Attorney General refused to go on with a panel of only twenty-eight, although the accused had only a right of challenge of six—leaving the right hon. Gentleman twenty-two to operate upon. The trial was postponed for a week, when thirty-six jurors answered to their names. The Crown challenged the first name balloted for; and, after the accused had exhausted his six challenges and the

Crown theirs, it was found that there were only eleven jurors in the box. The Crown had therefore to accept the first juror whom they had challenged. All this was provided for in Sligo, where they had a panel of 248, and it would be absurd if, out of a panel of 248 or 258, they could not select twelve men according to their own choice and of their own mind. The result was that in the case of the hon. Member there was a disagreement of the jury. He could never appreciate the sense of fair play of the right hon. Gentleman in excluding from the box men who were known to be in political—if not in religious—sympathy with the accused. Was it the case that men in political sympathy with the accused would not find a just verdict, however strong the case might be? If it were so, indeed he was afraid the practice of jury packing in Ireland would go on for a very long time. Even if there should be a failure of justice occasionally, it was preferable that the Government should give such confidence to the people in the administration of justice as would promote a good spirit among them, rather than that they should challenge everybody known to be in political sympathy with the accused.

Another matter to which he desired to draw attention, was a matter affecting the constituency he represented, and that was the demand made in the previous year, or in the beginning of the present year, upon the municipal authorities of Dublin in regard to its police rate. Dublin, in regard to this matter, was in an extraordinary position; although they were taxed far beyond the limit of other towns in the United Kingdom for police, they had no control whatever over the police; the police gave no assistance for fire brigade purposes, or for carrying out the sanitary laws. They were there as a foreign body. Some three years ago the Dublin Corporation made a bye-law to regulate the placing of newspaper placards all over the street where they were not only a nuisance to everybody but, owing to their flying up in front of horses, a source of danger to the people. The Corporation, having passed the bye-laws, called upon the municipal authorities to carry it out. Up to now the police had refused to carry it out.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN, interrupting, said that any discussion of the police on the present Vote would be irregular unless by consent of the House and the Chair.

MR. HARRINGTON said he had consulted Mr. Lowther the previous night, and he told him it could be done if the Chief Secretary did not object.

MR. WYNDHAM suggested that as the hon. Member was the chief magistrate of Dublin and wished to bring the matter forward, he should be allowed to do so.

MR. HARRINGTON said that under the new Act power was given to the Corporation to make further bye-laws for the regulation of the traffic, and one bye-law which they made was that every vehicle should carry lights at night and that all bicycles should carry lights. In that case the police had refused to carry out the bye-law without an indemnity being given to them before they attempted to enforce it, and a large correspondence had taken place between the Corporation and the police upon the subject. Dublin was taxed to the extent of 8d. in the £ for police, and that contribution was fixed fifty years ago, yet, although the population had increased three-fold since then, the tax had remained precisely the same. The people of Dublin were contributing 8d. in the £, as against 3d. in the case of Bradford, 3½d. in the case of Glasgow on rents over £10 and 1½d. in the case of rents under £10, 5d. in Sheffield, which was the highest rated town in England, and if they took Belfast, which they ought to compare, perhaps, most with Dublin, the police rate was only 3d. The cost of police per head was 8s. 2½d. in Dublin and 11d. in Belfast. In no town in England did they approach the Dublin figures. In addition to the fixed maximum rate of 8d. the Irish Government constantly made demands. This year they demanded £5,000, which demand was finally abandoned because it was made on a basis which could not be supported, but he feared the demand was only abandoned for the time. These figures resulted in great injustice to the community, because the

Treasury refused to make grants for improvements on the ground that the rates were so high, and the rates were high because the Irish Government would not treat them as English towns were treated. If this could be justified by any increase of crime, there would be a reason for it, but it could not. In 1863, when this rate was fixed, the indictable offences in the year amounted to 9,520, in 1901 they were 2,196, and the cost of police in the same time had been doubled. The number of offences dealt with summarily in 1863 was 43,694, and in 1901 29,736. So that while there was this enormous diminution in crime there was this enormous increase in the rates. He hoped the Chief Secretary would direct his serious attention to this matter, which so greatly affected the whole community of Dublin.

(6.10.) MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said it was with no feeling of disparagement to the Chief Secretary that he said he recognised that the speech of the right hon. Gentleman was, both in substance and in form, almost identical with the speeches he had heard from successive Irish Secretaries for the last seventeen years. There was the same strenuous assertion made in earlier years of this dispute of an intention to vindicate the law, and the same protestation of infallibility on the part of the executive and administrative officers of the law in Ireland, and no doubt that speech accurately represented the attitude of the Irish Government. The economic conditions of Ireland still offered the same field for exploration as it did in 1887 and 1888, but the position now was worse, perhaps, than then because former Chief Secretaries had the sympathy of what was called the loyal minority. The right hon. Gentleman was the first Chief Secretary to be without the support of the loyal minority in Ireland. This recrudescence of Irish disturbance was due not merely to the fact that legislative reforms were not introduced, but to the fact that there was inequality in the administration of the law between this country and Ireland. In England the magistrates and judges were independent of the Executive, and not under its control; it had no power to remove them. Superior judges could only be removed by Parliament, and the inferior

judges by the constituted judicial authority of the country. In Ireland there existed the extraordinarily anomalous state of things that the resident magistrates (improperly so-called) were chosen at the will and caprice of an executive officer, and sent down as the servants and creatures of that officer to try political offenders. In the event of a person charged being committed for trial in England, the jurors were called according to the alphabet, but in Ireland they were called according to their political and religious creed, and were invariably composed of Protestants. The answer of the right hon. Gentleman would probably be that if a Catholic jury were empanelled it would be impossible for the Crown to secure a conviction. But surely the converse of that argument also held good. If a Catholic jury was unreliable in the interests of the Crown, he thought it was established that a Protestant jury was equally unreliable in the interests of the prisoner; and it was a principle of British justice that if injustice was likely to arise it was far better that the Crown rather than the prisoner should be the sufferer.

As to the suppression of meetings, in Ireland it appeared to be done at the mere caprice of the Chief Secretary or his officials, whereas in England a meeting could not be prohibited unless satisfactory or reasonable grounds were afforded in the view of those responsible for the maintenance of order that violence, upon either persons or property, would be exercised. He had little sympathy with the methods by which Orangemen conducted their political propaganda, but he was at a loss to understand on what principle the meeting at Rostrevor was prohibited. It was the duty of the Executive to protect lawful public meetings such as, apparently, that at Rostrevor was; but he had also heard of other gatherings for peaceful and lawful objects being suppressed by the strong arm of the law because it was supposed they might militate against the interests of the Government.

He fully associated himself with all that had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman the late Home Secretary with regard to the Sheridan case. There was probably no graver scandal in the history of the administration of our law than the action of the Irish Executive in

failing to prosecute Sheridan. He agreed that probably the material at the disposal of the Chief Secretary when the Ryan business was discovered was not sufficient to justify legal proceedings against Sheridan, but on further inquiry being made it was found that three innocent persons had been convicted on false evidence. One would have thought that then nothing in the world would have prevented the Chief Secretary instituting a prosecution against the persons concerned in the concoction of false evidence, but instead of that an indemnity of the widest possible character was given. To have given an indemnity to one person was surely the fullest length to which the right hon. Gentleman need have gone. Even apart from the evidence of the constables, he believed it would have been almost impossible for Sheridan to escape conviction. But assuming it would have been difficult to secure a verdict, it was the duty of the Government to have shown their solicitude for the police force to be as far as possible above suspicion, and even though Sheridan on some technical point had escaped conviction, the Government would have been amply justified in placing him on his trial. It was not yet too late to make some reparation. This matter concerned not Ireland alone, but the whole administration of British law, and he submitted that it was the duty of the Government to cause an extradition warrant to be applied for. For the satisfaction of public feeling in England, as well as in Ireland, he, as an English lawyer, urged that this step should be taken; and, beyond that, it was incredible that men who had been morally convicted of the crime of procuring the conviction of innocent men should still be serving in the police force.

*(6.36.) MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said that the very fact, referred to by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Armagh, that these debates recurred year after year was the strongest proof that the course now being pursued by the Chief Secretary was reactionary and pernicious. Why was the same old story perpetually being told? Because the Irish people had no confidence in the administration of law in Ireland. That peculiarity was a reproach to England

which ought long since to have been removed, and a misfortune to Ireland, which could and ought to be remedied. He was in hopes that they would have initiated a better system than the one which previously prevailed, but instead of this the Chief Secretary had gone back and reversed the policy which prevailed in Ireland ten years ago. From 1893 up to the present year coercion was asleep, and that incident of unconstitutional oppression, the Coercion Act, was not put in force by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose Burghs. From 1895 up to the present time the immediate predecessor of the Chief Secretary, the present President of the Board of Trade, was able to govern Ireland without the Coercion Act. He thought scant justice had been done to the President of the Board of Trade by his own party, by whom he had been persecuted because he had not revived that odious system of coercion. In 1898 they got the first instalment of Home Rule in the shape of the Local Government Bill, and why did the present Chief Secretary for Ireland not follow up that example and give them a still more generous Land Act, and a still better development and expansion of local Government in Ireland. Instead of this they had had a proclamation of some of the most important parts of Ireland, followed by the imprisonment of several Members of Parliament and others. These men had been subject to the ignominy of imprisonment, at the behest of magistrates who were removable at the pleasure of the Lord Lieutenant. He arraigned the present administration for reviving this system of coercion. They should bear in mind that this landlord "combine," which was formed to counteract the organisation of the Irish tenantry, was formed by a circular issued on the 7th of April, and on the 14th of April a meeting of the Privy Council was called, and on that day the Coercion Act was put in force. The proclamation reviving the Coercion Act was signed by two of the leaders of the landlords' combination, the object of which was to stamp out the present agitation, not in the interests of the country, but in order to secure the payment of their rents. It was at the instance of these landlords that the Coercion Act was revived. How could any hon. Member defend that conduct who had any sense of justice, for in this case the landlords were the

judges of their own cause, whether it was right or wrong. This point had not been answered. The Chief Secretary had passed over this argument in his eloquent speech last night, and while he attributed to the rhetoric of his hon. friends below the gangway and their agitation responsibility for oppression in Ireland, the right hon. Gentleman forgot that he himself was one of the greatest offenders in the abuse of that rhetorical power.

There was no occasion for coercion in Ireland, and its application was unnecessary and unfair. Want of confidence in the administration of Ireland on the part of the people was at the root of all the misfortunes of the country and this was the bed rock on which all its calamities rested. This want of confidence in the administration and in the fairness of the British Government, as exercised in Dublin Castle, had been fomented and increased by the course which the right hon. Gentleman had taken. One might imagine that he was reading the history of Ireland a hundred years ago in regard to that dreadful rebellion of 1798. The revival of coercion in the present year had been brought about and initiated for the purpose of driving the people into such a state of desperation as would warrant a further suspension of the constitution and a further persecution of these poor wretches. There was nothing in the state of the country or in any of the districts proclaimed to warrant the resuscitation of this odious Act. Want of confidence in the administration was at the root of all the trouble. It was pointed out by Mr. Lecky in one of those admirable books, which he wrote when he was not a Member of Parliament, that four years after Catholic emancipation there was not a single Catholic lawyer on the Irish Bench. While three-fourths of the Irish people were Roman Catholics, out of eighteen judges in the superior court in the year 1902, whose incomes ranged from £4,000 to £8,000 a year, only three of those judges were Roman Catholics by religious profession. Was that a fair proportion having regard to the population? Out of twenty-one County Court judges, there were only seven who were Roman Catholics. As an Irish barrister, he held that that was not doing justice to Catholics, and it was not calculated to inspire confidence in the law in Ireland. They could

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not expect an ignorant peasant to have the same confidence in judges who belonged to a different religious persuasion. Under this state of things, the suspicion of unfairness was enough to create a feeling of despair, and a sense of oppression and wrong that nothing could overcome. He did not say that the Chief Secretary was responsible for this state of things. In the cause of his country and in the cause of justice, he (Mr. Hemphill) thought it was his duty to call public attention to what he believed to be unreasonable and unfair.

The interference with public meetings in Ireland had been grossly abused. He agreed that every Government had a right to prevent public meetings, if there was any reason to suppose that a breach of the peace would ensue from it. That power in such a case must be exercised, and it had been exercised even in England. He did not, however, think that any Government had the right to prevent a Member of Parliament addressing his own constituents on the public topics of the day, even though he might wish to argue in favour of a compulsory purchase Bill, or any other measure. It was monstrous that at a meeting of that sort, before it was known what the member was going to say, should be interrupted and broken up by the police. Such a thing could not exist in England. If it had existed, England would not be what it was now. It was the right of public meeting, the right of calling for the redress of grievances, and the right of protesting against oppressive laws, that had brought England to the height of prosperity of which they were all so proud. Why should Ireland be prevented from a like opportunity? Why should the people of Ireland not have the right of assembly in order to make their voice heard all over the three kingdoms in pressing for any legislative change? If there was a breach of the peace the police were bound to interfere, but they were not bound to interfere when a meeting was called for the purpose of hearing a Member of Parliament address his constituents on political subjects.

At Cork the other day the court house was occupied by the county Council, and because some question arose after the business of the Council was

over—he understood that many members of the Council were also members of the United Irish League—the sheriff came in and endeavoured by force of arms to break up the meeting. That was grossly illegal, because the Local Government Act provided that the court house should be under the control of County Council, and that—he was giving a paraphrase—if any difference arose between the Sheriff and the County Council as to the use of the court house, it should be laid before the Lord Lieutenant and decided by him. That course was not pursued in this case. The course taken by the Sheriff was a lawless proceeding which deserved the reprobation of this House.

In the De Freyne estate dispute he maintained that the Chief Secretary should have followed the example of his famous predecessor, Thomas Drummond, who refused the forces of the Crown to enforce tithe, and told those who sought the aid of those forces to resort to the ordinary Courts of law. In the case of Sheridan there had been a monstrous failure of justice. There had been a monstrous deviation from executive morality in allowing Sheridan to go unpunished. One of Sheridan's accomplices was still in the police force in a depôt. Was a man powerless for evil because he was in a depôt? He regarded the action of the Chief Secretary in the Sheridan case as a compounding of felony. Sheridan should have been brought to trial and the responsibility of discharging him thrown upon a jury. What the Roman satirist said should have been remembered—*Quis custodiet ipsos custodes*. The responsibility should have been thrown upon a jury of deciding whether he was to go unpunished. Then the Chief Secretary would have been able to say that he had done all he could to bring this monstrous betrayer of his trust to justice.

* (7.10.) MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for North Tyrone had censured the Chief Secretary for holding a secret inquiry in the Sheridan case.

* MR. HEMPHILL: I did not say a word about the secret inquiry. I

studiously avoided that. But I did presume to censure him for not bringing Sheridan into court for trial.

* MR. STUART WORTLEY said the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife made his censure cover the action of the Chief Secretary in regard to the indemnity. He complained that the Chief Secretary had not exercised sufficient care in the preparation of the indemnity so far as the exact terms were concerned. They had in this case to look not merely at the form of the indemnity, but to those men who had to read it, and who had to form expectations as to what would inevitably arise after the inquiry.

* MR. HEMPHILL: It was stated to be a verbal indemnity.

* MR. STUART WORTLEY thought the House would feel that the Chief Secretary had taken a bold course in the Sheridan case, which required much courage, and should be appreciated in persons in his position who were apt to be much dissuaded by persons of influence. A poor reward had been meted out to him in the censures levelled at him in the House. Let it be remembered that the indemnity to the police constables preceded and did not follow the discovery of Sheridan's guilt, and that the Chief Secretary's course was taken with a nobler object than that of exacting vengeance against Sheridan. It was undertaken with what he would call the nobler object of freeing from prison innocent men, and of establishing their innocence in the face of the world. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife said that Sheridan ought to be prosecuted at all costs. He did not agree with the view of the right hon. Gentleman, that it was in accordance with English tradition to go forward with a prosecution of this kind, where there was infirmity in the evidence and difficulty of corroboration. The right hon. Gentleman stated that if a conviction had taken place there was not an Irish judge who would have thought he had done his duty except by inflicting a severe sentence. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman was right in his estimate of the Irish judiciary. But it would have been not less the duty of the judge

Mr. Hemphill.

to warn the jury against convicting upon prejudice or on uncorroborated testimony.

Even with such a risky proceeding in trying to get a conviction by the help of the prejudice surrounding this case, there would not have been much chance of obtaining a verdict. The hon. Member for Harbour Division of Dublin had complained of the cost of the police in Ireland, and had stated that in the city of Dublin it was equal to a rate of 8d. in the £ on the valuation of the city. But in Liverpool the police rate was 8d. in the £ of rateable value, and in Manchester and Salford it was only a little less. These figures showed that the cost of the police in Ireland was not so wasteful as it appeared to be. The charges brought by hon. Members opposite against Ministers were also an indictment against a whole people who had been, to a steadily increasing extent, refusing to be brought into unjust sympathy with the case of the Irish tenants, because they had begun to see the practices by which the grievances of the Irish tenants were used for political purposes. As to compulsory purchase, it was necessary to persuade the British people to part with their money for that purpose; but that would not be done by exaggerating the case and by working up theatrical agitation. They had been told that because the Government had gone so far with a generous policy of land purchase, and because they had put the tenants of one estate in a better position than those on another estate, they were bound to take another step forward, not because of financial considerations, but on account of geographical contiguity. He could assure hon. Gentlemen opposite that as they had failed at every election since 1886 in England, they would continue to fail to elicit sympathy here for their agrarian grievances so long as they were paraded before the British electorate as had been this case of the De Freyne tenantry.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said that the right hon. the Chief Secretary, in his very gloomy speech, rebuked the right hon. the Member for Haddington for impartiality. At all events the right hon. Gentleman's own speech was singularly free from that vice.

There was a time when the right hon. Gentleman was suspected of impartiality in Ireland, but he had told the Committee the previous day, that, as the result of a longer experience, he had found that impartiality would not do; and he seemed from some of his latest speeches, to have gone far in abandoning any spirit of impartiality. It was certainly a remarkable fact that every question that arose in connection with Irish administration provoked an extraordinary heat and temper in the course of the discussion. For his part, he thought the only explanation of this lay in the fact that every grievance, however small, every detail, however insignificant it might appear in itself, was connected in the minds of the people of this country, and in Ireland, with the general grievances and the general problems which were vital to the whole interests of the country. When he spoke of small matters, he did not include amongst them the Sheridan case. He regarded that as a great and a grave matter. The shame and displeasure all Englishmen and Scotchmen felt was no small matter that a man drawing their pay and wielding their authority should have been guilty of the conduct of Sheridan. But that was the least of it. He felt bound to say, after having listened most respectfully and carefully to all that the right hon. Gentleman had stated about his past action and present attitude, that, in his opinion, there had been a very grave error of judgment which had led to a most unfortunate and serious failure of duty on the part of the right hon. Gentleman. What was the situation at the moment? At the best it was not that the position of the Royal Irish Constabulary was seriously affected. But must it not be a bitter humiliation to every honest member of that force that he wore the same uniform as the man who had been concerned in acts which had been universally condemned? Was it not the fact that there remained an untried case, and allegations generally made against the Royal Irish Constabulary? At the worst they had allegations made by hon. Gentlemen from Ireland, which he himself did not believe, but he submitted that, at all events, Sheridan ought to have been put upon his trial, and what

had been said by the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had done nothing to remove that impression from his mind. He admitted that at an earlier period there might have been a difficulty in proceeding with the trial of Sheridan; but he sincerely trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would remove the painful impression made on the minds of hon. Members by endeavouring to find whether there was not evidence on which he could go forward with a reasonable hope of conviction. He maintained that even if the Government had failed in the prosecution to secure a conviction on account of the evidence breaking down, they would have been in a better position in Ireland than now if they had made the attempt. Some British Members of this House had incurred the displeasure of the right hon. Member for Antrim by interesting themselves in Ireland. That was a great misfortune from which they might never recover, but they must bear it as best they might. It seemed to be the newest brand of Unionist opinion that English and Scotch Members were not to take an interest in Irish affairs, or if they did, that they were to get their information from the right hon. and gallant Member for Armagh, who produced to the House a few newspaper extracts. It was high time that hon. Members tried to see and learn the facts for themselves and think for themselves. When he said that they had been so unhappy as to incur the displeasure of some hon. Gentleman who represented the Irish landlord interest, he wished particularly to state that he knew very well that that had not been the spirit of the right hon. Gentleman in regard to their desire to inform themselves. Neither was it the spirit in which they had been received by Lord De Freyne's agent against whom he had no complaint to make, who had given them all the information that he could give after the instructions he had received. He did not understand why the Irish landlords should resent their interests in this matter. For himself he desired to say that whatever position the Irish landlords take in Ireland he was perfectly satisfied that they could not move forward in this matter at all unless they took a most reasonable and even generous view of the position of these landlords. He could not see what the landlords had to gain by having this question postponed. His opinion was that they were in a falling market.

It being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY.

[20TH ALLOTTED DAY.]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1902-3.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £10,108, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1903, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums."

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £1,000, in respect of the Salary of the Chief Secretary."—(Mr. Dillon.)

(9.0.) MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS, continuing his speech, said the landlords in Ireland must not count on an indefinite prolongation of the present state of affairs, and it was impossible that the patience of the people of England will allow other matters to be delayed by these questions of Irish administration. Much of the evil was, no doubt, due to the unhappy dissociation of Irish administration from local opinion and control, and that was a matter he would like to have discussed. But he was aware that that could not be done satisfactorily on such an occasion. The other great centre of aggravation was the position of the land. The statements which had been made by some hon. Members as to the poverty on the De Freyne estate had been travestied in the House, and had

been described as exaggerations, by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Antrim, who had asserted that in reality the district was prosperous and the people were well off. He had himself had it suggested that his own visit to the estate was too short to enable him to form a fair opinion. He did not desire to intrude his own opinion on the House, but he meant to see more of that district, and he hoped other hon. Members would do the same. He would willingly spend a much longer time there if he could hope that longer acquaintance would produce in his mind that spirit of cheerful optimism which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Antrim had; for he would do a great deal to forget many of the scenes he witnessed on the estate. It would be much better if the landlords dealt with the problem which confronted them in a reasonable and businesslike spirit. They could not expect the people of this country to submit for ever to allow this difficulty to remain unsettled, and he suggested that the time had arrived for the landlords to make the best bargain they could with the tenants. Delay in this matter was no more to the interest of the landlord than it was to the tenants. It was impossible that the inflated value of the rentals on this estate should continue; there must be a decline, and he believed that every year's postponement of the settlement involved a further shrinkage of value which would have to be paid for when the settlement was made. Let the landlord drop the heroic strain, and proceed to negotiate on businesslike lines. They must know that a rapid development of land purchase under compulsion was a necessity of the situation, and they had better make up their minds to face the fact.

What was the complaint hon. Members on the Nationalist benches were making? It was as to the inaction of the Government in this matter. The Government alleged that the present movement was the work of agitators, but he was bound to confess that, in his opinion, the principal agitator in the whole matter had been the Chief Secretary himself. He had made it a reproach to hon. Members on the Opposition Benches who were now advocating a development of the scheme of land purchase that they were acting inconsistently, with what was done by their own leaders years ago. But even if it were the case, the party formerly

opposed compulsory land purchase, it would not prevent him now advocating it if he thought it the best solution of the difficulty. Further than that, to resist the beginnings of land purchase was very different to opposing the completion of a work on which they had already embarked. Had hon. Members seriously thought of the responsibility of this country and of the Government for the economic condition of Ireland? He admitted that the landlords were not responsible for the rents now charged, because those rents had been fixed for them. Now they were revising the bargain and securing a different settlement much more advantageous to the tenants, and he could not help feeling that in creating the second kind of bargain they had invalidated and put an end to the first one. The Irish Government was a great agitator, and had placed a bad object lesson before Irishmen. Its present helplessness, its position as a mere spectator of the war between the combinations on each side, was really deplorable. Why was it not taking active steps to deal with and alleviate the situation? Instead of doing that, it had intensified the immediate difficulty of the Irish situation. They did not say they believed that a large reconstruction on the basis of purchase was possible, but they fabricated all kinds of difficulties, which, if they were real, should have prevented them entering on their present course. They had no right to upset existing arrangements unless they intended to go on with constructive work. Parliament had created the situation, and it was the duty of Parliament to deal with it, and the responsibility of the Government was not limited to the preservation of public order. They had an economic responsibility as well. They were responsible for a proper land system for Ireland. It was too late now to object to Government interference between landlord and tenant; it was too late to say that land purchase meant confiscation, for it was no more confiscation than the legal regulation of rent. In principle they were the same. We were committed to State action, and action must be taken. Every act of the Chief Secretary's administration, so far as there had been any action, was a

confession that the present state of things could not continue and that land purchase was the solution. If the Chancellor of the Exchequer was the obstacle, then let that matter be openly discussed. He believed there was a bridge to be built between what the landlord could afford to take and what the tenant could afford to pay, and the country owed it to itself to build that bridge. In the sense in which we used the word in this country there was no "landlord" in Ireland. The Irish landlord had no function except that which could be discharged equally well by a bank or a rent collector. Under the existing system on these estates there was no possibility of paying a rent out of the produce of the soil; it was not sufficient even for the maintenance of the occupier. The rent had to be obtained from sources very different. The right hon. Gentleman complained of the agitation on the De Freyne estate, but it required very little agitation to convince Irish tenants of their grievance; but it would be neglect of their duty to those they represented if Irish Members did not press this land question by every legal means. The stupidity of the situation was that the Government had provoked a state of things which they might easily have foreseen, and now refused to deal with it. The hon. Member for East Mayo only last June told the right hon. Gentleman that, if he would promise to attempt to deal with the matter, he himself would do his utmost to end the agitation, but the right hon. Gentleman said never a word in reply. Why had he taken no notice whatever of that offer in which there was every hope and possibility of securing a better state of things? They were prepared to see that the law was obeyed, but they refused to accept their responsibility for the economic situation which had grown up. They were placing the power of the Empire at the back of the landlords who were only one of two parties to a great industrial dispute, and he was bound to say he could not regard with anything like equanimity the refusal of the Government to apply any constructive treatment to the difficulty. This was a matter of vital importance both to this country and to Ireland. He was not one of those who look with gloom and apprehension on the prospects of Ireland; he believed she could bear all

her burdens, and that they would be able to leave the heritage as great and honourable as when it passed into their hands. But they could only do that by remedying injustice and by not making their power an instrument of wrong and misfortune to the people under their control. It was not by malice or intention that we in this country had acted towards Ireland as we had done; but it had been through inaction, inattention, neglect and mismanagement that we had got into a false position and now found ourselves on the wrong side in a great question of justice.

(9.30.) MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) said he could not allow this singularly important debate to pass without claiming the attention of the Committee for a few moments. The Chief Secretary wound up his speech last night with a very brave and menacing peroration such as he had heard pretty often from Chief Secretaries at the Table of the House, and such as he had known them to swallow very soon afterwards. The Chief Secretary was cheered last night with the usual enthusiasm. According to his experience in that House, he had always found plenty of men, like that superior English person the hon. Member for Tynemouth, ready to cheer on any lispings, halting words of the Chief Secretary, who ran across to Dublin Castle for a few months and then set himself up to lecture the Irish Members about their own business and their own country. It was this that had left the Tory Government and the right hon. Gentleman in the position in which they were to day; and he could promise the Chief Secretary that he would have to begin over again the Conquest of Ireland hundred years after the nominal union. He noticed that even the enthusiasm of the hon. Member for Tynemouth somehow got frozen out when he came to speak of the case of Sergeant Sheridan. Apparently that case was so sore a case that the Chief Secretary himself, in the very short portion of the speech which he devoted to the subject last night, really devoted less energy and less passion to denouncing the crimes of Sergeant Sheridan than he devoted to denouncing the crime of the unfortunate Sheriff of Cork in not driving out with fire and sword the

representatives of the people from the Council Chamber which belonged to their own Council. He was not surprised that the Chief Secretary felt keenly the position of humiliation and shame to which he had brought himself by the assisted emigration of Sergeant Sheridan and by his compassionate allowance to his accomplices. After the crushing exposure of the facts that was made by his hon. and learned friend the Member for Waterford, and by his hon. friend the Member for East Mayo, even he was himself disposed to extend a certain amount of compassionate allowance to the Chief Secretary himself if he would clear out of the country without further inquiry like Sergeant Sheridan.

AN IRISH MEMBER: He has cleared out of the House.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said he did not accuse the Chief Secretary of want of valour. Probably he was occupied elsewhere. The grand point that the Chief Secretary made was that no doubt Sheridan was a most abominable scoundrel, but that the case was not typical; that Sheridan was a mere *lusus naturæ* such as might be found in any country; and that he was the one black sheep in a flock of spotless lambs. His triumphant point was that the House would never have heard of Sheridan's infamies only that Dublin Castle itself was the first to take action. That was precisely the point. The deadly difficulty, the almost terrific difficulty of unmasking a case of this kind was that Dublin Castle blocked the way as it always did. Dublin Castle was the first to take action in this matter. Let that be to their credit for a moment. But why did they take action? Simply because the rogues fell out. Because Sergeant Sheridan fell out with his equally shady superior officer District Inspector Irwin, the nominee of County Inspector French. If action was taken by Dublin Castle, it was action not to bring out the whole truth, but to cloak it and hush it up in the fear that bad as was Sheridan's case worse remained behind. Sheridan's case was not an exceptional case; there were at least dozens; and he was sorry to say he believed scores of cases at least as atrocious. The only

Mr. Charles Douglas.

difference between the case of Sergeant Sheridan and the other cases, was that Sergeant Sheridan was found out under circumstances which compelled Dublin Castle to disavow him. His hon. and learned friend the Member for Waterford last night gave the tragic story of the crime of Head Constable Whelelan and all its terrible results; but the Chief Secretary in his long speech did not by one word attempt to contravert the statements. He might go back to the case of the man James Ellis French, the detective director and county inspector and head of the whole Criminal Investigation Department of Ireland, and one of the foulest monsters that ever cursed the country; yet that man among his other horrible deeds organised an attempt to murder. He believed the hon. Member for South Tyrone was one of the jury who in the end convicted this man.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.):
One of the third jury who tried him.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said that it was only after three trials that they succeeded, so desperate was the attempt of the officials at Dublin Castle to screen him. He came to a more recent case. He did not know whether the House was aware that while the United Irish League was struggling into existence an attempt was made to strangle it by involving it in a murderous plot. Another sergeant, Sergeant Sullivan of Mulranny forged a letter inviting a number of young men to commit an outrage. At the hour appointed for the outrage a double patrol of armed policemen under the command of Sergeant Sullivan was lying in ambush at the appointed spot. He was brought to trial and upon the trial the Crown became the nominal prosecutors. How did the Crown use its powers? The Crown used their power to pack the jury with an exclusively Unionist and Protestant jury to acquit Sergeant Sullivan exactly as they would have packed a jury to convict his victims if he succeeded in the attempt to carry out that object. It was at the Sligo Assize and in that venue where the population of Catholics and Nationalists was 'nine out of ten every single Catholic and Nationalist in the

panel was ordered by the Crown to stand by. That process was now confessed by the Attorney-General for Ireland. An exclusively Protestant and he might say Orange jury was sworn to try the case. Here they had the double action system of foul play going on. They had a jury packed to acquit a policeman in exactly the same way as they had a jury packed to convict the innocent victims of Sergeant Sheridan. It was the same judge who tried the two cases, Judge Gibson, and Judge Gibson expressed his belief—he was sure he regretted it now—that there was not a shadow of doubt about the guilt of McGoochan the victim of Sergeant Sheridan. The partisanship of this jury packed to acquit the policeman was so flagrant that even the judge had publicly to rebuke the jury because in the middle of the case they actually intimated they had already made up their minds to acquit the prisoner even before the most important witness for the Crown was examined at all. That was so abominable a miscarriage of justice that when this man, Sergeant Sullivan, was afterwards proceeded against in a Civil Court, where juries could not be packed in the county of Dublin which was undoubtedly a Unionist venue, eleven out of twelve jurors beyond all manner of doubt were convinced of this man's guilt, and he was only saved by one true blue. He alleged, and it was in the knowledge of a great many, that every judge in the four Courts, and every man who heard the evidence in this case that came before an unpacked jury, were absolutely convinced that this ruffian was guilty. And if the Chief Secretary had the least doubt upon the subject, he invited him now to have a public inquiry, as they had challenged him 500 times to have. But there was this difference between Sergeant Sullivan's case and Sheridan's case, that the rogues did not fall out in Sullivan's case. Sullivan did not fall out with his superior officers. On the contrary, this man's superior officers, county and district inspectors were guilty of the infamy of proffering themselves as bail for the man committed for trial upon this atrocious charge, and these officers actually authorised a sort of national subscription among the policemen of Ireland for his defence. There was no falling out between the Sergeant and his superior

officers in this case; and accordingly, instead of cashiering Sergeant Sullivan, as Sergeant Sheridan was cashiered, the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary stood up in this House and declared this miscreant to be a highly honourable person, and Sergeant Sullivan was still an honourable member of the force. Literally, thousands of pounds of public money had been spent in sheltering him, and paying his expenses in the trial in which eleven of the twelve Dublin jurors were convinced of his guilt and the Chief Secretary to this day held that justice had been done in the case of Sergeant Sullivan. He ventured to say the case of Sergeant Sullivan was even a more atrocious case than the case of Sergeant Sheridan; because Sergeant Sheridan committed his crimes off his own bat and for the mere sordid purpose of promotion; but nothing was more certain than that Sergeant Sullivan acted in this matter with the deliberate design of crushing the United Irish League by attempting to involve its leaders in the responsibility for a murderous outrage; and that he was instigated and directly encouraged to it by the Crown Solicitor of Mayo and other underlings of the Government. The Chief Secretary, who claimed so much credit for having been the first to dismiss Sergeant Sheridan at the instigation of District Inspector Irwin, the *protégé* of Ellis French—the Chief Secretary to this day constituted himself the mouthpiece of the officials who shielded from justice the Mulranny forger who packed the jury deliberately to acquit him where they were the prosecutors, and spent thousands of pounds in saving him from justice, and trying to thwart the efforts of private individuals. That what was about as atrocious a crime as ever was perpetrated in a civilised country; and yet, bad as it was, that was quite the usual fashion of Dublin Castle.

After the Mulranny affair no doubt they had dropped their first plan of campaign of attempting to tar the United Irish League with the guilt of crime and bloodshed. The Mulranny affair was too close a shave. Even their own criminal statistics, their own judges, had shamed them out of their original Parnellism and crime plan of campaign against the United Irish League. They had now changed their tactics, and it was one of

Mr. William O'Brien.

the curious developments of Irish life that the only Irishman who was now subject to the coarse imputation of palliating crime was not one of the Nationalist members, but was the hon. member for South Tyrone. It must be a pleasant reflection to the Chief Secretary as to the success of his administration in Ireland that that coarse kind of imputation was now necessary against a man who was the most powerful Unionist in all Ireland. Nobody dared to deny on the other side of the House that he was the most powerful Unionist in Ireland. They never dared to deny it in the Home Rule days when they wanted him and when they were ready to black his boots, as they were now ready to blacken his character. He was speaking as an impartial witness, for he beat him in South Tyrone as a Unionist, where a Unionist landlord, the Hon. Somerset Maxwell failed. Beyond all comparison the hon. Member was the man to whom was most due the defeat of Home Rule in England, and, with the usual wisdom and generosity and gratitude of the Tory party, it was just because he was now giving them their last chance of saving Presbyterian Ulster—[Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Hear, hear!—by a Compulsory Sales Bill, that they were treating him in the very fashion that aroused in them so much horror when it was the case of Nationalists treating a boycotted landlord. He willingly bade the Chief Secretary to go ahead with his attacks on the hon. Member for South Tyrone; and by and by, when the Home Rule days came again, as come they would, they would probably be glad enough if they still found the hon. Member sitting on the Benches opposite, having in the meantime given the Presbyterian farmers compulsory purchase. As to the Chief Secretary's taunts to the hon. Member for South Tyrone about ambiguous hints, he would have supposed that nobody ought to have realised better than the Chief Secretary that the Member for South Tyrone was a master of exceedingly plain and incisive English; and that if the Chief Secretary had a grievance as to ambiguousness he had better address himself to a certain Dr. Rutherford Harris. What were the ambiguous hints of the Chief Secretary himself? He need not tell the Committee that the right hon. Gentleman had expressed his

contempt for "sordid agitators." They were used to being calumniated and misrepresented in their cause, and the worst injury the right hon. Gentleman could do them would be if he could find anything for which to praise them.

The Chief Secretary had attacked the character of the leaders of the people down in Roscommon, and had attributed to them the basest, most mercenary, and dishonest motives. This rich man did not think it beneath him to quote for the derision of this House the hotel bills of the professional organisers who, with the sumptuous salary of 30s. a week to keep body and soul together, were fighting the battle of the people. They were discussing tonight the modest salary of £4,500, which this Gentleman, who so loftily elevated above sordid motives, unselfishly accepted for governing Ireland in defiance of the will of the majority of the people. How would the right hon. Gentleman like it if they were to follow his example, and get hold of his wine bill and his own servants' gossip, and retail how he expended his £4,500, and entertain the House with a burlesque account of his expenditure? When the right hon. Gentleman thought fit to indulge in coarse and vulgar imputations of that kind against men who were as good as he, he wanted to know by what divine right he expected he was to be the only man who was to be caressed with silken courtesies. But the right hon. Gentleman had plainly insinuated that the Trustees to whom the De Freyne tenants entrusted their money would probably turn out to be swindlers. He said that was foul play. If it were Parliamentary to say so—he knew it was true to say it—it was just as foul play as the actions of Sergeants Sullivan and Sheridan for the Chief Secretary to take advantage of his privilege as a Member of the House to say things of his opponents in Ireland, which he would not dare, even before an Orange jury in Belfast, to attempt to justify in the witness box. These were the realities of Irish life; these were the things which made the name of England so beloved in Ireland. He did not hesitate to say that if Prince Henry and his German Fleet, when they steamed into Bantry Bay the other day, had landed an army and 200,000 rifles, he did not think it would have required many organisers

to bring every young man who was worth his salt in the country to his side. That might be shocking, but he had learned that shocking an Englishman was the first step towards convincing him. Englishmen were lovers of fair play, and could be convinced by mighty Englishmen like Mr. Gladstone, but after twenty years experience he was sorry to say that, in his opinion, it was as idle for the representatives of Ireland to attempt by mere reason to affect the minds or consciences of the majority of this House as if they were to address them in their own Gaelic language. Every Irish Act in the Statute Book was a confession that the Irish were right, and that the English Government wrong, and these Acts had failed just in proportion as the English had followed their own instead of Irish advice. They had to be taught now, just as they had always been taught, not by reasoning, but by something as near revolution as it was possible to go. His answer to the right hon. Gentleman's appeal last night was that the only amendment as to the conduct of the affairs of Ireland was that England had to learn to know that she knew nothing of Ireland. He noticed that the right hon. Gentleman had not one word of apology to offer on the subject of the new landlord conspiracy, run amongst others by a pair of perjured Privy Councillors. [HON. MEMBERS: "Oh!"] He had no hesitation in saying it.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order! It is not in order to attribute dishonourable motives to Members of the other House.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said the Deputy Chairman had not waited until he had mentioned the names of the Privy Councillors.

*THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member referred to two Members of the House of Lords.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said he was not anxious to controvert the Deputy Chairman's ruling; one of the Privy Councillors to whom he referred was Lord Clonbrock, and at that moment he really did not know whether his Lordship was a

Member of the House of Lords. He knew very few Irish Peers who were Members of the House of Lords. As to the other Privy Councillor, so far as he knew, he was not a Member of the House of Lords, and was a drummed-out Member of this House. At all events, these two gentlemen were landlords and were Privy Councillors, and on the 7th April they formed a secret association for the purpose of waging a civil war in Ireland, and seven days afterwards these same men, not acting in their capacity as landlords, but as Privy Councillors, went up to the Castle and proclaimed eleven counties of Ireland—the most peaceful country on God's earth—in pursuance of the landlords' sordid, selfish, and brutal conspiracy. He ventured to promise the Chief Secretary that the people of Ireland would know how to deal with it still more effectually whenever these landlord conspirators had got together their £100,000 with which to begin operations. They could not pretend to misunderstand the peroration of the right hon. Gentleman the previous night. They accepted his declaration. For the moment, no doubt, owing to the decencies of Coronation times, prosecutions had rather slackened off. Before a month was over, as soon as the backs of the Colonial Premiers were turned, they would have the prosecutions beginning again in hundreds and in thousands, prosecutions not against criminals—for how dared they to say there was any crime in the country except of their making—but against the best and most representative men in the country, and men who would be worth a million to England if they could only conciliate them, men who were publicly attacked in every vile form by miscreants of the stamp of Sergeant Sheridan. They would have all the forces of England that the right hon. Gentleman could command placed at the service of the Lord Londonderrys, and the Smith-Barrys, and the Clonbrocks, to nurse up another generation of young Irishmen in hatred and detestation of English rule. The right hon. Gentleman the previous night talked triumphantly of his majority. He had his majority, he had his bayonets. The Irish would not be able to fight as the Boers had fought. If they only repealed the Arms Act for a few years, they

would probably find that neither the will nor the pluck was wanting. They probably would not be able to fight England in the field, but they would be able to cover her with disgrace and humiliation before other nations; they would be able to hang upon her flanks; and some day or another they might find that they might be in a fix when they would find it not quite so cheap or easy to laugh at Irish disaffection. Before very long, sooner or later, now as always, they would come to see that in this question of compulsory sale and of the resettlement of the land in Connaught the Irish were right and the English wrong, as the Irish had always been right and the English had always been wrong. Their Statute-book was the best proof of that. They would come to see it after the usual period of suffering and of persecution, and they would yield, as they must sooner or later, and when they yielded, they would as usual, in a way for which nobody would thank them and everybody would despise them. Up to the present moment, the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had exercised a certain fascination for certain soft-hearted or perhaps soft-headed Irishmen, by playing the part of the coy and unwilling victim, rather than the ally of the landlord faction in the Cabinet, by posing as a sort of Lydia Languish of the Treasury Bench, whose one function was in the House to look beautiful and address captivating speeches. He had now thrown off the mask, and they now knew him as the open confederate, the ministerial emergency man of the Smith-Barrys and the Clonbrocks. Let him go on with his proclamation of war, and do his worst, and let England judge by-and-bye of his success. At all events, they in Ireland were perfectly justified, and they deserved to be termed the most arrant cowards if they did not face this infamous coercion in the most peaceful country in the world, smash it, and make the right hon. Gentleman and his landlord confederates rue the day when they even attempted to break the spirit of an unconquerable—in spite of the effort—an unconquerable race.

(10.22.) MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs): I suppose the majority

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of this House were not here in the years from 1880 to 1886, when the Home Rule policy was announced. If they had been, they would recognise that in Ireland the Irish question remains very much what it was nearly twenty years ago. No Gentleman on the other side who has listened to the speech of the hon. Member who has just sat down will deny, after reflecting what a position he has occupied and still occupies in Ireland, that the Irish question is still alive and is still actual and burning. One expression used by the hon. Member, I must say, seems to me to go beyond the fair line of Parliamentary language. The expression which he applied to Mr. Smith-Barry and Lord Clonbrock seems to me, who am without any sympathy whatever with the policy or aims of either of these two gentleman, to be a wholly unjustifiable expression. It was no intention of mine to interpose in this discussion; but when one reflects that this is, after all, comparatively a new Parliament, a new century, a new King, a new Prime Minister, I think it is well for the House to pause and reflect, after listening, for example, to such a speech as we have just heard, and see where we stand in respect of the Irish question. I have listened very carefully to the whole of the debate; and as for the particular administrative details which were brought to light in the course of that debate, I will only say a very few words—and I would not say them except for the fact that I was myself for a certain number of years responsible for Irish administration.

The case, for example, of the choice of Mr. Harrel to constitute one of the two magistrates of this Coercion Court and the letter of Sir David Harrel in the matter, has been referred to and I think not unnaturally. I agree with all the Chief Secretary has said as to the disadvantage and impropriety of bringing Civil servants into our discussions. Sir David Harrel was appointed during our administration. I will never use any language except that of respect and confidence of my friend Sir David Harrel; but I think that whoever authorised or instructed the Permanent Under Secretary to appoint Mr. Harrel to one of these Courts—if the Chief Secretary was responsible, I blame

the Chief Secretary—was guilty of want of tact, and, it plain English, of common-sense. Then a second point. The proclamation bringing certain counties under the Crimes Act was signed by two Privy Councillors. You must get two Privy Councillors, no doubt, to sign such a proclamation; but surely Gentlemen opposite will see the utter absurdity, the imbecility, of getting two Gentlemen, as to whom personally, I am not going to say a word, but who were identified with the formation of a new syndicate in the new war between landlord and tenant, to sign that proclamation. After all, Irish Privy Councillors are not such rare birds as to make a choice of this kind inevitable. I think the Dublin Executive showed an enormous want of common sense and of tact.

There is another case which was referred to last night by my hon. friend the Member for South Tyrone—the appointment of a Protestant lady to inspect places where children under the Poor Law are boarded out. I am not acquainted with the circumstances of that case except as told in the House by my hon. friend. If my hon. friend's story is an accurate story—and I, who have had many a year of contest with my hon. friend will admit this of him, that I do not think I ever found him out in an inaccuracy of detail—I am bound to say that there, again, the Chief Secretary, if he is responsible, has shown an extraordinary want of tact and—again, I must use the word—of common sense.

As to the case of Sheridan, the House has heard a great deal about it, and I, for one, see perfectly all the difficulties which the Chief Secretary had to encounter in this case. But I cannot absolve him from an administrative indiscretion, first of all, in not prosecuting Sheridan, whether he was likely to get a conviction or not. The all important thing in Ireland is to try to convince the people—a difficult task, I admit, especially for a Government in the position of the present Government, existing in antagonism to the wishes of the majority or the Irish people. It is most difficult for them to try to get into contact with the feeling of the community. But surely this was a case

where you ought at all costs to have convinced the public opinion of Ireland, being what it is, suspicious and jealous, often ill-informed, that the Chief Secretary and the Irish Government were not intent upon shielding any constabulary officer guilty of any offence so gross, cruel, and monstrous as that of Sheridan. I think, therefore, that the Chief Secretary was guilty there again of a very great indiscretion in not running the risk of not getting a conviction, in order to show to the people of Ireland that he, at least, had nothing to conceal, and had no intention of masking any of these misdemeanours. Then, I cannot for the life of me understand by what administrative rule, moral or political consideration, the right hon. Gentleman was actuated when he retained in the constabulary force a man whom he knew to have been an accomplice in crime of the most monstrous kind, both in itself and in its consequences. That is a thing the Committee ought really to consider. In his own narrative last night, the right hon. Gentleman said—

“One of these two men was a party to crime. The other two knew that Sheridan was not speaking the truth, and if they had had sufficient moral courage might have exposed him, but they did not do so.”

It is all very well to use a moderate expression of that kind about moral courage, but the point in this case is not the moral courage of this or that constable; it is whether the victims of these abominable proceedings were to suffer a wrongful punishment, and whether those who had been the means of this wrongful punishment being inflicted were or were not to be in a position which indicated—to a certain extent, at all events—confidence on the part of the Executive Government, in spite of their being kept in the depot. That is all very well, but it comes to very little: they were retained in a position which indicated that they still retained the confidence of the Executive Government. I do not believe that it can be stated either by the Chief Secretary or by any one else that that represents anything else than a monstrous indiscretion. If I had been Chief Secretary, while admitting all the difficulties about the evidence of this accomplice, or *quasi*-accomplice, I certainly

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would, conviction or no conviction, have had the case tried out, to show Irish opinion that I was perfectly fearless of any exposure that could be brought to light.

In that connection there is an alarming thing about the position taken up by the right hon. Gentleman. I did not hear an accent or sentence in his speech which indicated that he owed any responsibility whatever to Irish opinion, or that he cared one straw—I am sure he does care—whether Irish opinion is pleased or displeased, or expresses its confidence in him or not. He is very careful about the constabulary and the landlords, but for the majority of the people of Ireland, whom it is his business to govern, and whom, if I may say so without impertinence, if he were prudent, he would take care to conciliate, he apparently has no care.

Some language has been used on this side of the House which indicates an opinion that Sheridan is a typical example of the Royal Irish Constabulary. I have had a great deal to do with the Irish Constabulary in a particularly delicate and dangerous operation. When the Home Rule Bill of 1893 was brought in, among its proposals was a proposal to disband the Royal Irish Constabulary. The right hon. Gentleman, at all events, will not deny that that was a very delicate and dangerous proposal—I mean dangerous for immediate administrative purposes. I made it my business to see a great deal of the Irish Constabulary, their officers and men, and when any one tells me that Sheridan is a type of the Irish Constabulary, I can only say that I disagree with him, root and branch. I was glad to hear this afternoon the hon. Member for East Mayo say particularly that this is not his view, and that it cannot be the general view of the Irish Members. To say that Sheridan, this abominable scoundrel, is the ordinary type of the Irish constable is a calumny and delusion. [Several IRISH MEMBERS: No one here said that.]

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: What I said was that I was sorry to think that there were dozens, and even scores, of such persons; that I said and that I stick to.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: The Royal Irish Constabulary consists of 12,000 or 13,000

men, and, under an abnormal system of government, I daresay you will find among them half a dozen, if you like, of men as bad as Sheridan. So you would in any other force. But this I would say of the Royal Irish Constabulary. A great deal is said of the collisions between them and the people. A great deal depends in these matters on the spirit in which they are supervised, the vigilance exercised, and upon the spirit which they know to prevail among the governing authorities. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think he had made a point, but how I did not gather, when he defended the necessity for there being in Ireland an armed and drilled police force, by quoting from a speech made in 1893 by a brilliant Member of this House—I wish he were a member now—Mr. Sexton—in which that gentleman insisted that there should be of necessity a drilled and armed police force. Well, of course, nobody in his senses would suppose that, considering the temper and the position of affairs in some parts of Ireland—and, by the way, in some parts, especially where they wear very broad phylacteries, as in Belfast—it could be otherwise. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think he had made a point when he said that under the Home Rule Bill of 1893 there was to be a drilled and armed police force.

MR. WYNDHAM: No, not in the Bill, but in Amendment proposed by Mr. Sexton, and seconded by the hon. and learned Member.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: That is not so. I think I remember very well the policy of the Bill of 1893. It was the policy of 1886, and I discussed it twenty times with Mr. Parnell, and Mr. Parnell, like Mr. Sexton, would have been sorry to have made himself responsible for the government of Ireland in the county of Kerry as it then was, and I hope the hon. Member for Clare will allow me to say—in the county of Clare as it then was. ["Sheridan had been in both."] But what was the proposal? It is a by-point, but the Chief Secretary chose to raise it—the policy was that you should have in central depôts an armed and drilled force, very much like what the Royal Irish Constabulary is, but you should have in the counties, if you have anything

like proper local government, a purely local force entirely under local administration. But if there was a disturbed area, and the local force was not adequate to deal with it, then the armed and drilled force would be called from the depôt. I have never taken a sentimental view of Irish administration, but I have always know very well that in a country so ruined, so demoralised by your administration and government, you cannot, right away, trust the people with the same local government principles as prevail in our more fortunate country.

The Chief Secretary last night talked about the agitation, as he regards it, now prevailing in Ireland, and used language which has already been referred to tonight. The blame, he said, "rests on those who find it easier to inflame the peasantry of Ireland with rhetoric than to persuade the House by argument." Now I would really ask the Committee whether they think that any rhetoric is required to persuade the De Freyne tenants living on the edge of the Dillion estate that they have a grievance which ought to be redressed? An hon. Gentleman, speaking from below the Gangway, though a supporter of the right hon. Gentleman, at once perceived, having knowledge of the circumstances, that you do not want rhetoric and argument to persuade a man who is paying 33 per cent. more rent than his neighbour over the border is paying, and who knows that his neighbour's privilege is due to the action of the Government—I say you require no rhetoric to convince a man on the De Freyne estate that he has a grievance. The right hon. Gentleman has overlooked a good deal, and I do not object to hon. Members referring to this. What single reform in the Irish land system—I mean what great reform—has been achieved by argument in this House? Not one. Last night my hon. and gallant friend the right hon. Member for North Armagh said Ireland is extremely prosperous; he spoke of large funds in the savings banks, and he made a very remarkable admission, which I noted—he said that since the passing of the Act of 1881 the position of the Irish tenants had unquestionably been very different from what it ever had been since the Act of Union. I wonder whether my right hon. and gallant friend supported the passing of Mr. Gladstone's Act of 1881?

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.): I was not in the House at the time.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Then that was a loss to the House. Every one of the class of which my right hon. and gallant friend is the spokesman, it would be safe to say, opposed that Bill, denounced it, and did all he could to prevent its passage.

MR. MACARTNEY (Antrim, S.): That is not accurate. [Cries of "What is not?"] That every Irish landlord opposed the Act of 1881. ["Oh, oh."]

*MR. T. M. HEALY: Every one of them did. Mention one who did not.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: The right hon. Gentleman surely does not mean to say that Irish landlords as a class ever used language towards the Bill but that of the strongest denunciation and even vituperation?

MR. MACARTNEY: I do not know what the right hon. Gentleman means by a class. If he says that every Irish landlord voted against the Bill, I say that that is not so.

*MR. T. M. HEALY: Mention one.

MR. MACARTNEY: My father did not.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Our records show that Irish landlords opposed that Act of 1881 which the right hon. and gallant Member for Armagh says, and truly says, placed Irish tenants in a position far more favourable than they had ever been before. I welcome the admission, because it is the fashion—I will not say in this new Parliament—but it has been the fashion for gentlemen sitting on that side of the House to denounce the Act of 1881 as an Act of confiscation and spoliation. But I come back to the point, a very painful point, but you must not forget that the history of Ireland is full of painful points. Was the Act of 1881 obtained by argument; was it got by rhetoric? No, when the Government of 1880 was formed there was no notion, I think, in the mind of a single Minister of passing that great Act. Why was it passed? I am ashamed to give the answer to my own question. It

was passed because there was violence in Ireland, and for no other reason. It has been admitted by Members of that Cabinet that, if they had trusted to argument and to rhetoric alone, that great charter of the Irish peasant would never have been passed. Therefore the right hon. Gentleman is leaning upon a broken reed when he appeals either to Irishmen or to impartial Englishmen to insist upon the Irish peasants trying to put everything right that they think wrong by argument alone. History will not bear them out in showing the validity of that proceeding. I am bound to say, a more extraordinary expression I have seldom heard in this House than that used by the right hon. Gentleman when he talked of the operations for reducing rents as a sordid enterprise which this chivalrous race is asked to undertake. Why is it more sordid for the United Irish League to combine for the purpose of reducing rent, or of effecting what other agrarian changes may be their object, than for the right hon. Gentleman and his friends to combine and make a syndicate? Is not that sordid? What is the use, therefore, of the right hon. Gentleman's saying anything of that kind of an operation which, after all, is the only kind of operation that has ever gained a single boon to the Irish tenantry, and entirely passing over the combination of the landlords, which, of course, is equally justifiable?

I think the right hon. Gentleman last night was extremely unfair to the Member for South Tyrone. He certainly was repaid in the most tremendous and crushing piece of invective that it has ever been my fortune to hear either in this House or out of it. He said my hon. friend endeavours to palliate outrage, boycotting, and so forth, and he said my hon. friend—who is well able to take care of himself—is guilty of gross inconsistency because he used certain language in 1890 and uses different language in 1902. Is my hon. friend the Member for South Tyrone the only person who uses inconsistent language? I have got what was a classic piece of language in old days—the language used by Lord Salisbury about boycotting. This is to show how futile are charges of inconsistency either against the

Member for South Tyrone or almost anybody who takes part in an Irish discussion. If there is a single man dealing with the Irish question for a course of twenty years who takes a point of view at the beginning of the twenty years and holds to it at the end of the twenty years, you may be pretty sure he is mistaken. It is a very shifting question. In 1885, on the eve of an election, Lord Salisbury presented an audience with this philosophic view of Irish boycotting, and I commend it to the attention of candid Gentlemen on the other side of the House as well as to some candid friends of my own. He said—

“Boycotting is an offence which legislation has very great difficulty in reaching. The provisions of the Crimes Act against it had a very small effect. Boycotting grew up under the Crimes Act. And, after all, look at boycotting. An unhappy man or his family goes to mass. The congregation with one accord get up and walk out. Are you going to indict people for leaving a church? The plain fact is that boycotting, after all, is more like excommunication or the interdict of the middle ages than anything we know now. The truth about boycotting is that it depends upon the passing humour of the population.”

It is important to remember that in the month immediately preceding that polished apologetic of boycotting, some of the most violent boycotting speeches ever delivered in Ireland had been made. Therefore, when the right hon. Gentleman taunts the Member for South Tyrone with inconsistency, let him reflect on the inconsistency of his own leader and his own party. The right hon. and gallant Gentleman talked about the County Councils, some of whose doings were reported last night by the Chief Secretary, and he made, in effect, two pointed observations. He said—

“When you were arguing for Home Rule, you used to tell us that if you only gave them Home Rule, they would be perfectly fair, and would make friends with the landlords and Unionists, and all would be well.”

And then the right hon. Gentleman said—

“See what happens now. They do not admit Unionists on to the County Councils.”

Surely he must see that this exclusion, as to the extent of which I am not well informed, but granting it is total—this

exclusion goes on at a time when the war for Home Rule is still unsettled. It does not at all follow, because they exclude Unionists now, when they have not been granted their demand, that they will exclude them afterwards, when that demand has been granted. That, at all events, is a possible position. Supposing they do exclude Unionists from the County Councils, where would they find an example for a policy of exclusion? What did the right hon. Gentleman's friends ever do on the old county Governing bodies, to give the common people in Ireland an atom of a share in the management of affairs?

Then there is a more important matter raised by the right hon. Gentleman. He said that the hon. Gentleman below the Gangway had missed a great chance in the line that they took about the Boer War. Many of the manifestations of feeling in Ireland about that war were as disagreeable to me as they were to anybody in this House. But let us consider why they took up that attitude with regard to this war which has concluded in South Africa. What is it that the Irish Members did or that other Irishmen did? The right hon. Gentleman and his friends have held Ireland in the hollow of their hand for centuries. But it is not England that they hate; it is the landlords; and for very good reasons. And to argue that because they show absolute want of sympathy to English sentiment in respect to the war while England refuses their demands for self-government, to argue from that that they would persist in the same course of animosity when their demand was conceded, is logic which for the reasons I have stated I do not admit for one moment. I certainly have not got in my pocket a draft of any Home Rule Bill, but there are one or two remarks I should like to make, because here we are now, after seven years of Unionist government, and in what position are we placed? You know perfectly well, from your conversations with one another, that the question of Ireland is as much alive as it ever was. You may seek to drive it under the surface—I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman will or not—but the question is alive; and, therefore,

perhaps I may be allowed for a moment or two to interpose a few remarks in reply to something which has been said in the course of the debate in respect of this situation. It is said, I know, that Home Rule is dead. I do not think so. We are told that we shall do well—we who are in favour of the extension of self-government in Ireland—that we shall do well “to go step by step.” Step by step! Step by step is a mere phrase. It is nothing more. When I ask my hon. friends what it is they mean by going step by step in the extension of local government to Ireland I have never been able to get from one of them an intelligible or even plausible reply. It is said, for example, “We will give Ireland a local body to deal with education!” Now just think of that. The education question in this country is not a very smooth subject to grapple with, but in Ireland it is a particularly difficult problem, more so than it is here; and yet we are going, according to this suggestion, to proceed step by step and to throw upon a raw and unfledged council the task of finding a resolution of the most difficult of all questions. You will have the Ulsterman and the Catholic disputing about education, and you will have England looking on over the fence with a not very sympathetic, but jealous eye. The case I put is that without the full power of Parliamentary responsibility this is a mere infatuation—as great an infatuation as it is possible to conceive.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON: Whose prescription is that?

MR. JOHN MORLEY: It is a current prescription; it certainly is no prescription of mine. Then there is another favourite formula which is heard on both sides in a reforming spirit. They say, “Reform Dublin Castle.” What does the reform of Dublin Castle mean? I know something of Dublin Castle. I do not think so ill of it as some of my friends below the gangway do. I think that as governing Ireland against its will it is extremely efficient. But what does this reforming of Dublin Castle mean? It means that you want to give the Irish people control

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over their own Executive. How can you give the Irish people any control over their own Executive, as we have it in Scotland and in England, unless you have a Legislature to provide the Executive? The more that formula is examined, the more hollow and unsubstantial it appears. This is not my view alone; it was the view held by Mr. Gladstone when he brought in the Home Rule Bill of 1886. Upon that occasion he said: “There are those who say ‘Let us abolish the Castle.’” I only present these points as showing the unworkability and unreality of the policy of step by step. The right hon. Gentleman said last night that I had suppressed thirty-nine public meetings. I think the House were probably deceived by that. They supposed that these were political meetings. They were nothing of the kind. They were not even agrarian meetings. They were gatherings which any policemen in the world would have suppressed, because they were meetings to intimidate individuals. Do you suppose that I, or any of us, would tolerate intimidation of individuals? After all, will you be good enough, when you mock at that assertion, to remember two things—first, that everything we did was done under the ordinary law, with no coercion and no exceptional legislation; and secondly, that when we left the Irish Government, Ireland was never in a condition of better order. Therefore, I beg the right hon. Gentleman, when he talks about our having suppressed thirty-nine meetings, to remember that that has no point in it. The Attorney General for Ireland charges me with jury-packing. I do not care about recrimination. It is the thing I desire least in the world, if I may say so without discourtesy to the right hon. Gentleman. Will he tell me one single case—he has all the archives of Dublin Castle under his hand—in our Administration in a criminal case outside the North where there was a jury exclusively Protestant? That is jury-packing. The right hon. Gentleman, when he makes that statement again, will be good enough to introduce that qualification.

Now I want to explain the reasons why I am going to give the vote I shall give tonight. I think since 1895 I have never voted against the Chief

Secretary's salary. But the vote to-night is a vote of want of confidence in the Irish Government, which has introduced coercion, without attempting to set forth, as used to be the fashion in the old days, the foundations of the case upon which such extreme measures were based. In old times we used to have to bring figures and quote charges. It was felt to be so serious a thing to suspend the right of trial by jury in the most important class of cases, that a very strong case must be made before the House of Commons was asked to assent to it. The right hon. Gentleman has placed no such case before us. He has contented himself with a vague phrase. He has said that Ireland is "seething with a spirit of discontent and revolt." It is admitted that Ireland was never more crimeless; and does the right hon. Gentleman say that because the country is, as he thinks—though I believe it is a most exaggerated description—does he mean to say that that is a reason for suspending the right of trial by jury in the very class of cases where the right of trial by jury is of the most precious and inestimable value? The Gentlemen who are for step by step will, I think, recognise in this proceeding that this new policy is a policy step by step backward. Never before has coercion, repressive legislation, been brought to bear—never before—without a proper statement being made. The right hon. Gentleman, I am afraid, belongs to that school—that bad school—who have been described as preferring to perpetrate a great amount of injustice rather than to create a small amount of disorder. You had much better, as Lord Salisbury said in the passage I have quoted, have used the ordinary law vigorously and vigilantly, if necessary taking your chance of convictions from time to time—there are plenty of devices apart from jury-packing for securing convictions—than resort to the repressive measures you have adopted. We have now in England a great body of important gentlemen from the Colonies. I wonder what one of these colonial Ministers will say when he sees that in Ireland, by a stroke of the pen, without a case stated to the House of Commons or the House of Lords, the

Irish Executive can suspend jury trial and the constitutional guarantees for as long a time as they think fit. I think our colonial friends will well understand what it is that causes disloyalty and discontent in Ireland. It is on these grounds that we say at this moment you have no Irish policy. I will ask—and it is my last question—what is your Irish policy? What are you going to do for Ireland? There is the Catholic College. The Prime Minister has expressed his strongest opinion that that is a necessary reform in Ireland, and I believe every one of those seven ex-Chief Secretaries to whom I referred, certainly most of them, approve of it. The Chief Secretary himself admitted, when he brought in the Land Bill, that there was an urgent case for it. He now says there is no chance—or the Irish see, at all events, that there is no chance—though sorely needed, of that Bill passing. What is your Irish policy now, at the beginning of a new reign, with a new Prime Minister, and a Chief Secretary apparently about to take a more responsible position? You have no policy, except this wretched, ragged, universal failure, the policy of coercion. And on that account I shall vote for the Amendment.

(11.18.) MR. WYNDHAM: I made yesterday evening so large a claim on the patience and indulgence of the Committee that I hardly feel justified in rising again tonight to trespass upon their kindness; but it will be felt that some reply is required by the speech to which we have just listened, and, indeed, by many others that have preceded it in the course of the afternoon and evening. Let me take some of the last words which fell from the right hon. Gentleman before I attempt to deal with his speech as a whole. He said that in former times preceding Governments—and I have no doubt he had in his own mind the Government probably of Lord Spencer, and the Government in which the present Prime Minister was Chief Secretary—had founded the case for what is called coercion by adducing statistics of crime, in the sense of violent crime against the person and against property, and by citing the charges of judges. Well, I

suppose that the right hon. Gentleman will tell me that had I done that I should have shown at any rate a laudable desire to convince or conciliate Irish opinion. But had that been done, we should have been told that the statistics were cooked, and that the judges were the mere tools of the Executive. That being the reply which any man of ordinary intelligence must have anticipated, I hold that it is better and franker to keep close to the facts and give for the policy of the Government the reasons which actuated us in adopting that policy. Those reasons have not been, and I have never said that they were, that a number of persons in Ireland have been murdered or maimed. Those reasons are that there is in Ireland at the present moment an interference with private liberties which makes it impossible in that country for agriculture to prosper, or for any substitute for agriculture to be introduced with any prospect of success. It may be said that this House ought not to govern Ireland. Of course, this is not the occasion for arguing on Home Rule—and I doubt if the right hon. Gentleman would even have touched upon that great theme had he not wished to give a back-hander to those who would approach it step by step—this is not the occasion for arguing on Home Rule; but that being so, so long as this House is responsible for the government of Ireland, it is the duty of the Government, resting on the support of this House, to see that the people of that country enjoy that modicum of liberty which must be the foundation of any superstructure of industry or of civilisation. The right hon. Gentleman took exception to my pointing out that he had prohibited thirty-nine meetings in Ireland. I thought I had made it clear last night that I was not using a *tu quoque* argument. I was enforcing the point that every Administration finds it necessary to do in Ireland things that no Administration finds it necessary, fortunately, to do in this country.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Is it true that in this country no Administration breaks up a disorderly meeting?

MR. WYNDHAM: I am not pleading for England robed in a white sheet of Mr. Wyndham.

innocence—that is not the point. The charge is that the Government of Ireland do things which stand in need of justification very clear and convincing. But I say that in Ireland every Government—even a Government allied with the Nationalist Party for the purpose of achieving Home Rule—found it necessary to break up thirty-nine meetings in the course of three years. The right hon. Gentleman says that he did that to protect individuals. Does he charge me with having done it for any other reason? He made a great point of the fact that, during the three years he was responsible for the Government of Ireland, he did not use what is called the Crimes Act, although he kept it on the Statute Book. But, although he did not institute any prosecutions under the Crimes Act, he did proceed in 279 agrarian cases under the provisions of the Statute of Edward III. But that, again, is an exceptional method called for by exceptional circumstances, called for by circumstances with which the House is quite familiar—namely, that in Ireland it is the business of certain people to endeavour for the advantage of their country, as they say, to plunge it into disorder by looting on one set of men on to the backs of another set of men. It is not that the farmers are looted on against the landlords, or that the Irish people are looted on against the Irish Government. That is not what takes place. What takes place is that a certain number of persons in a village are set like a pack of hounds on some individual in that village who happens for adventitious reasons to be unpopular. I believe the object is at all costs to create a situation which calls for the intervention of the Government, and then to charge the Government with intervening without any just cause, and then to appeal to this House, and to this country, and say: “See the tyranny of the Government! Give us Home Rule!” The right hon. Member at the beginning of his speech said quite truly that many of those who listened to him were not in this House during the late eighties, when we had a party in alliance with the Nationalist Party for the purpose of obtaining Home Rule for Ireland. Yes; but we had the old situation revived on a small scale this evening; and I am glad that hon.

Members who are now in the House, but were not in the House then, have had the unique opportunity of hearing the hon. Member for Cork City followed by the right hon. Member for the Montrose Burghs. The right hon. Member listened to the speech of the hon. Member for Cork City. He would, I suppose, have wished to agree with it all, but he could not do so, and in that conciliatory manner which he recommends to me and to all Chief Secretaries, he ventured so far as to say that the hon. Member for Cork City had used one word which went beyond the limits. But I never heard beyond the limits of what, because there was such an uproar on those Benches from the hon. Member and his colleagues at the bare idea that one of them could have gone beyond the limits in anything. Well, that is indeed the old situation. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say: "We have a new King, a new century, a new Prime Minister; let us pause and see where we stand." We stand exactly where we did. We have a right hon. Gentleman in his position trying to work with the Nationalist Party, and finding it impossible to do so unless he is prepared to condone words and actions which are repugnant to him, as they are to every Member of this House. The expression that went beyond the limits was a charge levelled at two hon. Gentlemen. [Cries of dissent from the Nationalist Members.] There you have it. Two men, let me call them, are placed by hon. Members opposite outside the pale of humanity, not for any action they have done, or refrained from doing, but simply because, being Irishmen, they happened also to be landlords. What a peaceful prospect for the future of Ireland if the right hon. Gentleman, in spite of these small exceptions he takes to the hon. Member for Cork City, completed his purpose of handing that country over to the tender mercies of the hon. Member for Cork City and the organisation which he directs and controls. Then to show how hollow this whole case is, the right hon. Member put up a charge, repeated by the hon. Member for Cork City, and on which the changes have been rung throughout the debate—a charge I did not notice because I thought it so trivial, so beside the issues which this Committee has been considering for two days—the charge that the

proclamation which brought certain provisions of the Crimes Act into force was signed by two landlords. I have been taken to task because I have not taken serious notice of that which was made almost the gravamen of the whole of the attack of some of the speeches to which I listened. But the right hon. Gentleman knows that the signature of such a document by the Privy Council has as much to do with its contents as the stamping of a letter in the post office before it goes through it. He knows perfectly well that the policy of reviving coercion is a policy for which I am the Minister responsible.

MR. T. M. HEALY: The Statute says—

"By and with the advice of the Privy Council."

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. and learned Member is a lawyer, and he will hardly contend that all the language of a statute corresponds so very closely to the realities of modern life. I am glad he thinks it worth while to get up and make this preposterous charge, because every one in the House knows that the revival of the Coercion Act is the collective action of the Government of the country, not of the Irish Government alone, but of the whole Cabinet. Of course I am responsible, because, if I disapproved that, I should have resigned; but it is an action which the Government has taken for reasons they approved; and yet, I suppose, an hour and a half of our time has been taken up by fulminations against these gentlemen for signing the proclamation, and against myself for a gross dereliction of duty, because until 11.30 on the following night I have not taken notice of so small a matter.

MR. JOHN MORLEY: Of course, I knew perfectly well that Mr. Smith-Barry and Lord Clonbrock had nothing to do with the issue of the proclamation. My point—a small point if you like—was that it showed want of tact to choose these two gentlemen to sign—formally and mechanically, of course—that proclamation.

MR. WYNDHAM: If that was all that the right hon. Gentleman had to urge—a want of tact and thoughtful stage management—his case against the Government is not such a very strong one. I am told that I ought to have conciliated Irish opinion by putting Sergeant Sheridan on his trial, even although I thought—as I do think—that that would result in a divided jury. Imagine the result of that policy of conciliation! Every single hon. Member on those Benches would have got up one after another and said I had packed the jury to rehabilitate the character of Sergeant Sheridan. I do not wish to add to what I said yesterday, except to correct a point I had left in doubt. Not two constables, but one constable remains at the dépôt; he was not an accomplice in the crime, and he still protests his innocence. He is not believed by those who conducted the inquiry to have been guilty of more than this. Whilst his own evidence was probably true, he must have doubted some of the evidence of Sergeant Sheridan, and had not the moral courage to stand up and expose him. That was on the second trial when the man accused pleaded guilty. I suppose there are many men, unhappily, who would not have had sufficient moral courage when a prisoner himself pleaded guilty to get up and give the lie to a superior officer without any prospect or hope that his word would be taken against that of his own superior officer. I am sorry that the right hon. Gentleman invited me to attempt a policy of conciliation. He must know that that is the dire offence with which I am always being taunted. I am not ashamed to say—and I do say it again here to-night with all emphasis—that on proper occasions I have invited, that on proper occasions I shall continue to invite, the House to do what I believe to be the duty of all true Unionists—to discharge in the spirit as well as to the letter the pledges given by Pitt and Castlereagh at the time of the Union, and, if not as a matter of duty, of expediency and common sense, to devote as much attention to Ireland at our door as to Egypt over which we have no sovereign rights at all; but this is not the proper

occasion for advancing such arguments, because if they were advanced they would be misunderstood by hon. Members opposite as well as by those who sit upon this side of the House. In the face of the direct challenge to Government to proceed at its peril on its primary duty of protecting property and liberty, it is absurd to talk of remedial measures, of a policy of regeneration. You do not abandon it; but you do not insult the intelligence of everyone who is listening to you by pushing it into the forefront as a reply to assailants who are doing their best, as I hold, to ruin Ireland. Now, let me turn to the hon. Member for Cork City in the very few words more which I have to say. I listened to his speech. It was a fearless speech. He dreaded only one thing. He dreaded that I might in some moment of aberration bestow some praise upon his conduct in the course of this debate.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: No; I did not.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member spoke of being in danger of being praised! but I do praise him for the skilfulness with which the subject of the De Freyne estate has disappeared altogether out of the discussion in this House, and for the way in which the defiance of the Government uttered in the Cork Court-house the other day have formed no portion of the hon. Member's speech; and I notice that after being in Ireland for a year, he has not said here those things which he said in Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: I had to compress my remarks, or I should have been delighted to refer to the statement which was deliberately made by the right hon. Gentleman in this House during my absence—that I was responsible for the starting of the no-rent campaign on the De Freyne estate. I should have been proud to meet that statement with the pretty conclusive evidence of an affidavit sworn by Lord De Freyne himself this week. That affidavit, a couple of hundred folios long, which gives a history of the whole struggle, never makes the smallest

allusion to my name, or the smallest suggestion that I had anything to do with it.

MR. WYNDHAM: The words of the hon. Member which I quoted are these:—

“I have already taken the liberty of suggesting that the only means of bringing this question of compulsory sale and of the terms of purchase to an issue in the south, is that the tenants of each estate should make a combined demand next November for an abatement of rent equivalent to that made to the tenant purchasers.”

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: There is no recommendation of non-payment of rent on the De Freyne estate there.

MR. WYNDHAM: The phrase “combined demand for an abatement of rent” suggests to my poor intelligence that, if that payment is not complied with, the tenants will show their displeasure on the lines which the hon. Member has again and again expounded.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: Of course I suggested that the tenants should bring their demand before the landlord; and I urged that they had as good a claim to purchase as the tenants on the neighbouring estates; but the question raised in this House was not the demand, but how it was to be enforced. I said distinctly in the passage which the right hon. Gentleman quotes how I proposed to enforce it, and it was not by withholding rent, but by a system of social excommunication of the landlords, such as you have practised with such success against the pro-Boers and the hon. Member for South Tyrone.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member's method is social excommunication of the landlords, some of whom are non-resident and cannot therefore be excommunicated. In that event would he advise the tenants to go no further, but to pay their rent at the rent office? If he would, he agrees with me and with the Bishop of Elphin, who thinks that the best advice which could be given to the

De Freyne tenants is “to pay up.” In his speech the hon. Member attacked me in most violent language because I had given that advice. He said that I made coarse and vulgar imputations; that I quoted the expenses of one of those who were stirring up this strife. So I did. But my words were a verbal quotation from the discourse of the Bishop of Elphin. I have been advised to associate myself with the efforts of the Catholic clergy in this district. I took the advice. I associated myself with their efforts. I quoted their words, and I pointed out to the tenants on the De Freyne estate, as far as I could reach them, that unless they took that advice there was no better fate in store for them than that which overtook the earlier dupes of the hon. Member for Cork City. [Cries of “New Tipperary.”]

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: I acknowledge New Tipperary.

MR. WYNDHAM: The hon. Member is himself incorrigible, and then complains that we will never be taught. But who is it that enters his disciplinary school? It is not we, the Members of this House, who sit here in safety and ease. Those who are the subject of his bitter correction are the poor tenants on these estates, who are, if not deluded, mystified by this ambiguous language, supposing it to be ambiguous, which I deny. For I say it is a direct incitement to the refusal of rent. They are either directly incited to refuse to pay rent or mystified by ambiguous language, and, overtaken by the inevitable results of that action, then to whom are they to look for assistance? Not, I think, to the hon. Member for Cork City.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN said he had challenged the right hon. Gentleman to quote out of some 500 or 600 speeches he had made in the course of the United Irish League movement one single sentence in which he advocated non-payment of rent as a weapon in their struggle, and the right hon. Gentleman had never succeeded, even with all the powers of Dublin Castle.

MR. WYNDHAM: I hope the hon. Member will join with me and the Bishop of Elphin—

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: Indeed, I will not.

MR. WYNDHAM: And advise the tenants to pay up. I draw the attention of the Committee to the contrast between the speech of the hon. Member made tonight and the speech he made in the Court-house at Cork the other day. He stood there on the platform with the leader of his party. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford made a speech in which he seemed to advise the Irish people to proceed to lengths which would force the Government not alone to revive coercion, as it is called, but to disfranchise the country and to turn Ireland into a Crown Colony. That is very tall talk, the key to which is to be found in one sentence in the speech made there by the hon. Member for Cork City—

“You have a perfect legal right,” he said, “to know how your landlords stand upon this question of compulsory sale, and whether they mean to persevere in their policy of vengeance upon evicted tenants. If the landlords refuse to receive you, or if they will hear of no terms, what is there to prevent you, if you are in earnest, from treating them, as I hope you treat every landgrabber that pollutes the soil? What is there to prevent you from issuing a sentence of social excommunication against every landlord?”

And now I come to the sentence which gives the key to all this tall talk—

“What is there to prevent you from keeping their cattle without a buyer at the fair, from calling out their servants from their service, and from requesting the blacksmith not to shoe their horses?”

A casual perusal of that sentence might lead anyone to suppose that it contained a very courageous defiance to the landlords and threatened them with great penalties. But who is threatened by penalties in that sense? The man who tries to sell cattle, the man who wishes to shoe the horse, the poor herd on the farm who has to support his wife and family by looking after the cattle. It is upon them, and upon them only, that the full force of this much-vaunted national movement falls; and it is because it falls upon them, upon the poor and oppressed, that I, for one, am proud if I can play any part in relieving them from so dire a calamity.

(11.49.) Motion made, and Question proposed, “That Item A (Salaries, Wages, and Allowances) be reduced by £1,000, in respect of the Salary of the Chief Secretary.”—(*Mr. Dillon.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 135; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 315.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bayley, Thomas (Derbyshire)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James

Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bennerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremier, William Randal
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John

Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
French, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John

Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carn'rvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McArthur, William (Cornwall)
McCann, James
McKean, John

McKillop, W. (Sligo, North)
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'ry Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Philipps, John Wynford
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)

Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Tolly, Jasper
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Archdale, Edward Mervyn
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer

Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gibbs, Hn. A. G. H. (City of Lond.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj. Evans (Tr'H'm'ts
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Linc.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry S. Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill

Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'r'ry
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Higginbottom, S. W.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Lees
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine

Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
 Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh.)
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, D'vid J. (Walthamstow)
 Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Moun'tlsh.)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Nicholson, William Graham
 O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Penn, John
 Pilkington, Lieut.-Col. Richard
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Plummer, Walter R.
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George

Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
 Ropner, Colonel Robert
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Rutherford, John
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
 Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Seton-Karr, Henry
 Smith, H. C. (North'mb. Tyneside)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Spear, John Ward
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.

Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Start, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wilson-Todd, Wm. H. (Yorks)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
 Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

It being after Midnight, the Chair-
 man left the Chair to make his Report
 to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Mon-
 day next; Committee to sit again upon
 Monday next.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In moving the
 adjournment of the House, I desire to give
 notice that I propose to move on Monday
 the suspension of the 12 o'clock rule for
 the remainder of the Session before the ad-
 journment for the holidays. On Monday
 the Education Bill will be taken, on
 Tuesday the Colonial Vote, and the
 Education Bill again on Wednesday.

MR. CREMER (Shoreditch, Hag-
 gerston) asked when the right hon.

Gentleman proposed to take the London
 Water Bill again.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot be
 sure, but not before Friday next.

MR. T. M. HEALY AND LORD JAMES OF
 HEREFORD—A PERSONAL
 EXPLANATION.

*MR. T. M. HEALY said if the House
 would allow him, he wished to make a
 personal explanation in regard to some
 remarks he had made a fortnight ago.
 He was mistaken in declaring that Lord
 James of Hereford had stated thirteen
 years ago that trial by jury in Ireland
 was in certain circumstances a "hunt
 for scalps." The noble Lord, he since dis-
 covered, had used no such words.

Adjourned at ten minutes after
 Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 25th July, 1902.

The Right Honourable Charles John Lord Colville of Culross, K.T., G.C.V.O., Lord Chamberlain to Her Majesty Queen Alexandra, having been created Viscount Colville of Culross, was (in the usual manner) introduced.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with—

Fleetwood Urban District Council.
The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

CLAY CROSS RAILWAY BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY (CRUMLIN VIADUCT) BILL.

LORD HAWKESBURY: My Lords, I beg to move that this Bill be re-committed. Owing to certain provisions in the Bill, of the Committee on which I had the honour of being Chairman, decided that it should not proceed; but since then, the promoters and the opponents have met, and it has been brought to my knowledge that they have come to an agreement on the subject. The Bill, therefore, becomes an unopposed measure, and I hope your Lordships will agree to its being re-committed as such.

Bill re-committed for Tuesday next.

HASTINGS TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.],

TAFF VALE RAILWAY BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to.

VOL. CXI.

[FOURTH SERIES.]

FELIXSTOWE AND WALTON IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

CONSETT WATER BILL [H.L.],

RHONDDA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL TRAMWAYS BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS,
SAVINGS BANKS FUNDS,
STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES,
PRIVATE BUSINESS,
NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

Message to the Commons for copies of the Reports, etc., of the Select Committees.

WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Telegrams concerning the siege of Ladysmith.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Further correspondence relating to affairs in South Africa (in continuation of [Cd. 903], January, 1902).

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Correspondence relating to the regulation and supply of labour in Southern Rhodesia.

WAGES AND HOURS OF LABOUR (BOARD OF TRADE, LABOUR DEPARTMENT).

Report relating to changes in rates of wages and hours of labour in the United Kingdom in 1901, with statistical tables.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

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BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1883.

General rules as to administration orders under Section 122 (dated 10th July, 1902).

PUBLIC RECORDS (SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE).

Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the Supreme Court Taxing Office, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES (IRELAND) BILL.
[SECOND READING.]**

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD KILLANIN: My Lords, the Bill which I desire the House to read a second time met with no opposition in the House of Commons, and I hope that your Lordships will also look favourably upon it. Its object is to give to rural districts in Ireland the same power as already exists in urban districts of levying a rate not exceeding a penny in the pound for the purpose of establishing public libraries. There have been attempts made in Ireland lately, not only to improve agriculture and to revive industries where possible, but also to make village life pleasanter and brighter, and this Bill admirably fits in with those movements. I hope, therefore, that your Lordships will accord the Bill your support, and that, should it become law, the powers given will be fully made use of in the rural districts in Ireland.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.
—(*Lord Killanin.*)

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: There is no objection on the part of the Irish Office to this Bill.

On Question, agreed to; Bill read 2^a (according to Order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next!

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION FROM THE UNITED STATES.

LORD BURGHCLERE: My Lords, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information as to the reported immigration of farmers from the United States into the Dominion of Canada. It may be in the knowledge of some of your Lordships that there has lately been a very considerable immigration of settlers from the United States into Canada. Last year I understand that the total number was very nearly 50,000; this year the number of immigrants has been estimated at the almost startling figure of 200,000. It is said that these settlers come from the farming classes of the United States, and that they are attracted to Canada by the cheapness of the land in the Dominion compared with the price of the land in the United States. I have also heard it stated that Minnesota farmers have been able to sell their holdings at from £8 to £10 an acre, and to purchase land in the wheat-supplying districts of Canada at the low price of £1 to £2 per acre; so that these men are able to pay off mortgages on their land in the United States, and buy considerably larger farms in the Dominion free of debt. It is further said that syndicates have been established in Canada and in America for the purpose of purchasing large tracts of land and to sell them to intending settlers. One of these land agencies—I think it was at Toronto—which had acquired over one million acres of land, is reported to have been selling this land to the settlers from the United States at the rate of something like 23,000 acres a day. I have no official information or statistics on the subject; that is the reason why I have put the question to the noble Earl. I think your Lordships will admit that, if the figures I have quoted are true, or even approximately true, they represent a very remarkable state of things. I approach this subject in no hostile spirit. If this large influx of farmers and agriculturists into the Dominion is going to be for the permanent benefit of Canada, we all, I am sure, welcome it. But I think your Lordships will see that if the facts are as I have stated, this immigration, if it increases at anything like the same ratio,

will have a very far-reaching effect, not only on the Dominion of Canada, but also on this country and the wheat supply of the world. This is a question of very great importance to us in this country, who are necessarily large importers of corn. I hope the noble Earl will give the House and the country any information he may have on this by no means unimportant subject.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ONSLOW): My Lords, I have not the statistics of the immigration from the United States into Canada for the present year. There can be no doubt, however, that the fertile lands in the western part of the Dominion are being taken up with unexampled rapidity, not only by immigrants from the United States but also by immigrants from Europe and this country, and the rapid development which is taking place in the north-western province of Canada bids fair to make the wheat fields in that country the most prominent factor in the wheat supply of the world. The figures quoted by the noble Lord were somewhat startling, but I do not think that the immigration is quite so large as he represents it to be. I am informed that since 1896, which was practically the first year of immigration from the United States, the figures were:—1897, 712; 1898, 9,119; 1899, 11,900; 1900, 15,500; 1901, 17,897; and up to the most recent date in 1902 the number was 24,100. Those are progressive figures showing a very large increase.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I was careful to say that I was not responsible for the figures, which were quoted from the English and American Press.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: Can the noble Lord give the corresponding figures of Canadian immigration to the United States?

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: No, I cannot.

MILITARY BAND IN THE PHOENIX PARK, DUBLIN.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government, with regard to the riot in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, concerning the military band, if inquiries into the said riot have been made, and the result thereof; and, if a band plays in the park on Sundays, whether the authorities will see that it is not interfered with, and that respectable citizens are allowed to enjoy the music in peace.

THE EARL OF DENBIGH: My Lords, the occurrences to which my noble friend refers took place on Sunday, 29th June. A large number of people, estimated at 5,000, assembled in the vicinity of the military band that was playing in the park. The great majority of these people were present to enjoy the music; but a small section, consisting of about 200 persons, made a hostile demonstration by hooting and groaning after some items had been played. In consequence, the band was withdrawn. The circumstances, regrettable though they were, were not in the nature of a riot, and did not call for the active intervention of the police. Steps will be taken to ensure peace should the band play again in the park, and an attempt be made to interfere with it. But I understand that the military authorities have ordered that no military band shall play in the park in the future. I may inform the noble Earl that the police could not have dispersed the people by force for merely expressing disapproval of the band by groaning. I believe that the military band was engaged to play in the park by the Tramway Company, and that, while many of the people who showed their hostility were, no doubt, influenced by a spirit of disloyalty, others were influenced by the fact that no city or civilian band had been engaged.

THE EARL OF MAYO: I am glad to hear from the noble Earl that should the band again play in the park, steps will be taken to enable the respectable citizens of Dublin to enjoy the music in peace.

**HOLYHEAD NONCONFORMIST
VOLUNTARY SCHOOL.**

***LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY** asked the Lord President of the Council why the Board of Education wished to suppress the Nonconformist voluntary school at Holyhead, and had directed the School Board to provide another school in its place. He said the case of this school was a very simple one. The Department had been threatening it for more than a year because it had not got what they considered a sufficient playground. This complaint was utterly frivolous. The school had a playground which was quite sufficient to meet the requirements of the children during the ten minutes each morning and the ten minutes each afternoon that they went out to get fresh air; and in the middle of the day, of course, they went home to their dinners. A few years ago about £300 was spent in making the necessary alterations, and it is was impossible to provide a larger playground. He had been in conflict with the Education Department for a considerable time, and could only attribute the opposition to this school to the "spite" which the Vice President of the Council entertained towards himself. Sir John Gorst made a speech last year in which he said that nobody would assassinate him (Sir John Gorst), because it would be of no use. He (Lord Stanley) wrote to Sir John asking him what he meant by this foolish speech inciting people to assassinate himself, also asking him whether his son's book, "The Curse of Education," had, as some people thought, been written in agreement with himself; if not, he had goaded his son to literary parricide. If the Vice President did not cease his oppression of this school, he (Lord Stanley) would publish a certain letter which had passed between them. The action of the Board of Education was treason against a Government which was supposed to be passing an Education Bill to preserve some shreds of religious instruction in the country.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of DEVONSHIRE): My Lords, the facts relating to this school are as follow:—The Holyhead British School was built in 1848, and for some time past the Board of Education have considered that the buildings were

not satisfactory for school purposes. After several adverse reports on the premises by the Inspector, the Chief Inspector, Mr. Legard, was asked to make a special report in June of last year. Mr. Legard visited the school, and pronounced the buildings to be wholly unsuitable and inadequate. He said that the boys' department was ill-constructed, unceiled and in a bad condition structurally; that the class-room, owing to its lack of width, was quite unsuited for teaching, and there was no adequate playground. The same general condemnation applied, though less strongly, to the girls' department. The infants' room was equally unsatisfactory, and it would be a mere waste of money to attempt to bring the buildings into conformity with modern requirements. In consequence of this Report, the Managers were informed, on the 21st June, 1901, that the Board's recognition of the premises would cease on 30th April, 1903. The Managers have recently informed the Board that they are unable to provide new premises, and the Board have therefore called upon the School Board to consider what provision will be required to replace the school when it is closed in May next. Your Lordships will therefore see that the statement of the noble Lord that this school has been condemned solely on account of the inadequacy of the playground is altogether without foundation. The school has been condemned on account of the general inadequacy of the structure for the purposes of a large school. There is also, I need hardly assure your Lordships, absolutely no foundation for the insinuation that this action on the part of the Board of Education is due to what I think the noble Lord called the "spite" of the Vice President of the Council. The proceedings have been initiated, not by the Vice President, but by the Board's Inspector, and the action of the Vice President in the matter has been purely ministerial. Although I took considerable pains to do so, I was quite unable to follow the reasons given by the noble Lord for the alleged spite entertained against him by the Vice President, on whose behalf I think I can say that he would not have the slightest objection to the publication of any correspondence which may have passed between the noble Lord and himself on the subject.

LORD STANLEY OF ALDERLEY thought the question of this school might well be left over to the new authorities to be set up by the Education Bill.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: If the Education Bill passes, it will not in the least relieve the Board of Education from the responsibility of satisfying itself that the buildings in which the education is imparted, and for which the Government grant is paid, are adequate for the purpose. The authorities would have no power to continue to recognise a school which was condemned as inadequate.

House adjourned at Five o'clock,
to Monday next, a quarter
before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 25th July, 1902.

UNOPPOSED PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

**CITY OF LONDON (SPITALFIELDS
MARKET) BILL.**

**CROYDON AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC
TRAMWAYS BILL.**

**LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN
RAILWAY BILL.**

**LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL
POWERS) BILL.**

METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL.

NEWPORT CORPORATION BILL.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL.

**NORTH METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS
BILL.**

WEST HAM CORPORATION BILL.

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

**WEARDALE AND SHILDON DISTRICT
WATER BILL [Lords].**

Read the third time, and passed,
with Amendments.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

**TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 1) BILL [Lords].**

As amended, considered; to be read
the third time upon Monday next.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: from Paisley;
Barnet; Edinburgh; Hebden Bridge;
and, Middlesborough; to lie upon the
Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions from Birmingham, against
alteration of Clause 8; to lie upon the
Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration; from Black-
burn; Criccieth; Lambeth; Notting
Hill; and, Kensington; to lie upon the
Table.

GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to
lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOT- LAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour, to
lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Gainsborough, against;
to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HOUSES (HOURS OF CLOSING) (SCOTLAND) ACT (1887) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to
lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POST OFFICE (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return presented, relative thereto
[ordered 24th July; *Mr. Austen Chamber-
lain*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be
printed. [No. 294.]

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS (REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE).

Return presented, relative thereto
[ordered 24th July; *Mr. Austen Chamber-
lain*] to lie upon the Table, and to be
printed. [No. 295.]

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to the Regulation and Supply of Labour in Southern Rhodesia [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Copy presented, of Further Correspondence relating to Affairs in South Africa [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF TRADE (LABOUR DEPARTMENT) (CHANGES IN WAGES), ETC.

Copy presented, of Report and Statistical Tables relating to Changes in Rates of Wages and Hours of Labour in the United Kingdom, 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (FOREIGN COMPETITION LOCOMOTIVES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 16th July.—*Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table.

Papers laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House :—

1. Public Roads (Supreme Court of Judicature), Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents existing or accruing in the Supreme Court Taxing Office, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

2. Lunacy, Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 30th June 1902 [by Act].

NEW WRIT.

For the County of Lancaster, North-East (Clitheroe Division), in the room of the Right Hon. Sir Ughtred James Kay-Shuttleworth, baronet, now Baron Shuttleworth, called up to the House of Peers.—(*Mr. Causton.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Civil Service—Abstractors or Assistant Clerks.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state under what authority power is conferred upon the Treasury, under Clause 18 of the Order in Council of 29th November 1898, to make an enactment of a retrospective nature extending the application of Clause 10 of the Order in Council of 15th August 1890 to a class hitherto unaffected, viz., abstractors or assistant clerks.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) No power is conferred on the Treasury by the clause which extends to all persons in the Civil Service the operation of the previous Order of 15th August 1890. In the case of persons not previously affected by the last-mentioned Order, the operation of the Order of 29th November 1898 was suspended for one year. The authority for both Orders was the same, namely that of the Sovereign in Council.

Crown Foreshore Fishing Rights in Orkney.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state what price has been paid, or is to be paid, by the purchaser from the woods and forests of certain foreshore rights of fishing in Orkney; what sum the purchaser has contracted to expend for the improvement of the fishing; if such sum has been expended, and under whose direction; when the regulations will be issued providing for free fair rod fishing for the public; and if in the agreement for sale there is provision that the purchaser shall not net by himself or others as against the public.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The proprietor of the Islands of Hoy, Fara, and Rysa Little has a lease from the Crown of its salmon and sea trout fishing rights in these islands for three years from Martinmas 1900, with an option of purchase for £210, subject to notice of the intention to exercise such option being given six months before the expiration of the lease, and to certain works for the improvement of the

fishing being carried out by him according to plans previously approved by the Commissioner of Woods. No particular sum was contracted to be spent. The works have, with certain modifications mutually agreed upon, been carried out under the supervision of a surveyor employed by the proprietor. The issuing of regulations as to fishing by the public is still under consideration, but it may not be possible to deal with the matter until the option of purchase is exercised or allowed to lapse. There is no provision in the agreement that the purchaser shall not net.

Local Government Audits — Disallowance of Parish Fire-appliance Expenditure.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether it is the rule that Local Government Board auditors shall disallow to Parish Councils the payments made by them for the provision and maintenance of fire-hydrants by local water companies; if so, will he take steps to have the rule altered, and auditors instructed to pass such payments; or, if the rule cannot be altered, will he explain how Parish Councils, which have the power of providing fire-engine and fire-escape under the Local Government Act of 1894, ensure a supply of water in case of fire.

(*Answered by Mr. Long.*) The law does not empower Parish Councils to provide and maintain fire hydrants, and I have no authority to instruct the district auditors to allow in the accounts of these authorities payments for a purpose for which they cannot legally incur expenditure. As regards the concluding part of the Question, the rural District Council may be invested by the Local Government Board with the powers of Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1875, with respect to the parish, and the necessary application for this purpose may be made by the Parish Council. It would then be competent to the Rural District Council to provide fire hydrants for the parish.

Waima Arbitration.

MR. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek): To ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is willing to

lay upon the Table of the House the text of the Belgian Arbitrator's decision in the Waima and Sergeant Melaminei cases.

(*Answered by Viscount Cranborne.*) The award will be laid immediately.

National Gallery, Edinburgh—Treasury Grant.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the fact that the balance available for Imperial expenditure from Scotland, after paying her own expenses of government, for the year ending 31st March, 1902, is £10,996,000, as compared with £2,570,000 for the same period from Ireland, he will now see his way to give at least as large a grant to the National Gallery, Edinburgh, as Ireland receives.

(*Answered by Sir M. Hicks Beach.*) I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave to the hon. Member on 9th July† and to my other statements on the subject.

India—Weather Telegrams.

MR. CAINE (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will explain why the weekly weather telegram from the Viceroy, which was despatched to the India Office on the 19th instant, was not communicated to the Press until the 23rd instant, and why similar delays have occurred during the last few weeks; and if he will, in view of the importance to the mercantile community and others, arrange that these weekly telegrams shall be communicated to the Press immediately they arrive at the India Office.

(*Answered by Secretary Lord G. Hamilton.*) The delay to which the hon. Member refers occurred in the process of printing the telegrams for distribution to the Press. I have given instructions which will enable these communications to be made more promptly in future.

Crown Foreshore Rights in Bellacragher Bay.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord

† See preceding Volume, page 1197.

Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 1st February Mr. Neal O'Donnell, of Mallaranny, county Mayo, was granted a licence by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland to plant an oyster bed in Bellacragher Bay, near Mallaranny, and that since the granting of such licence Mr. O'Donnell has been served with notice by the owner of Rosturk Castle threatening him with prosecution if he attempted to plant an oyster bed. And, whether, considering that the Crown has not parted with its right to the foreshore in question, he will take steps to prevent interference with the right of way over it.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The Department granted, on 1st February last, a licence to Neal O'Donnell, of Mallaranny, to plant an oyster bed entirely below low water mark, in Bellacragher Bay. The question of the ownership of the adjacent foreshore, that is to say, between high and low water mark, was not involved in the granting of the said licence.

Militia Entrance Examination.

MAJOR EVANS-GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office has come to any decision as to the programme for the Militia entrance examination next March; and, if so, whether tactics will be restored to the course, as unanimously recommended by the Committee on Military Education.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) No decision has yet been arrived at with regard to the subjects for the examination of Militia Officers next March.

Forestry—Inquiry as to Laws in Foreign Countries.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will have inquiries made through His Majesty's representatives abroad as to the laws and regulations regarding the planting and preservation of timber trees, in force in the countries to which they are accredited; and if he will have the result of these inquiries printed as a Parliamentary Paper.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) From inquiries I have made I learn that it would be quite practicable to ascertain the various enactments which are in force in foreign countries with reference to forestry; but with regard to regulations which necessarily are framed for the guidance and the system of departmental administration, I am advised that not only would they prove to be of an extremely voluminous character, but also that little useful purpose would be gained by a collection so costly and detailed.

FINANCIAL RELATIONS—ENGLAND AND IRELAND.

(12.15.) MR. CLANCY (Dublin Co., N.) said he was sorry that in rising to move the Motion which stood in his name he would not be able to say much that was new, and the reason was very plain. The grievance of which the Motion made mention was not a new one. The subject had been frequently debated in the House in the past, but nevertheless it was full of interest, not only from the point of view of Ireland, but also from that of England. Certainly it was also full of interest of exceptional and vital importance to Irishmen, and must remain so as long as the injustice remained unremedied. After all, money was a matter of universal interest, and he thought he was right in saying that as many revolutions in political history had been caused by financial injustice as by almost any other cause that might be named. He had no desire to use language of exaggeration, and he intended to do nothing of the kind. He did not think he could be accused of using exaggerated language when he said that if Ireland had the necessary power, the financial injustice which he was asking the House to remedy, and which the House had been asked for many years past to find a remedy for, would itself have been a sufficient cause for a political revolution.

As he had said, the grievance was an old one, and, in consequence, the remark made last year by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the effect that it was strange that they had not debated the subject more frequently in recent years clearly had no good foundation.

As a matter of fact, attention was called to the injustice as far back as the year 1800, at the time of the debates on the Treaty of Union, when it was predicted by all the unpurchased and unbribed intellect of Ireland, which was then represented in the Irish Houses of Parliament, that one unfavourable result of the Union would be the financial injustice. Since that time there had been a practically unbroken protest kept going against the injustice which had been perpetrated. It was easy to understand why, in the early part of the last century, before the Catholic Emancipation Act was passed, that protest was not very manifest, because the Irish representatives in this House failed to make it. Everyone knew, except possibly the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the persons who sat in this House as Irish Members of Parliament between the year 1800 and the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act, represented Ireland just as much as they represented Russia. They were no doubt Irishmen; they were born in Ireland, but they were the mere slaves and tools of the English Parties. They did nothing for the special interests of Ireland; they were Imperialists in the strictest sense of the term, and consequently nothing that happened to Ireland interested them, except, indeed, when it tended to injure the class to which they themselves belonged. But from the passing of the Catholic Emancipation Act down to the present moment the protest against the financial injustice to Ireland had been practically unbroken. It might interest Irish Unionists, and specially Irish Conservative Unionists, to know that among the persons who, from the year 1853 downwards, had most strongly protested against the injustice of over taxation were the Irish Conservative Members representing Irish constituencies. He need only mention the names of General Dunne, who represented Queen's County, Colonel French, who represented the County of Roscommon, Mr. Whiteside, who was subsequently Attorney General, and after that the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, and Sir Frederick Heygate, the Tory Member for Derry County. In fact, all the Irish Conservatives who were not in office, or did not expect to obtain office, took the

lead in this protest against the injustice to which the country was subjected by the Unionist Government as to finance and against the manner in which the financial arrangements of the country were carried out. Later on came the time of Isaac Butt. There were Members of the House among them, no doubt the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, who would remember Mr. Mitchell Henry, and Mr. Butt, and Mr. A. M. Sullivan, and many other competent representatives of Ireland, who constantly made complaints similar to this which he was now laying before the House, that Ireland was being robbed on the present financial arrangement. He was sorry to say, however, that those complaints found very little echo on the other side of the House. Since 1885, he might observe, the protest had been practically continuous. Sir Joseph M'Kenna three or four times brought the question before the House, and they all recognised with gratitude the services which he rendered to his countrymen on this question. Last of all, he might call attention to the agitation which had taken place in Ireland on this subject, in connection with the Report of the Royal Commission of 1894. That agitation was not a Nationalist agitation. In fact, a large and numerous body of gentlemen in Ireland holding views adverse to the Nationalists directly accepted and supported the Report of the Royal Commission. Meetings were held in all parts of Ireland, and were addressed by Conservatives, and he might mention as one incident to illustrate that fact that at the Dublin meeting amongst the Members who spoke were Mr. Ian Trent Hamilton, who long represented the County of Dublin in the Conservative interest, and the Archbishop of Dublin, who made a memorable speech. When they saw men of different religions, and different political creeds, and of various political parties, taking up this attitude, he was tempted to ask whether they were to be regarded as all fools and frauds. The Chancellor of the Exchequer apparently thought they were to be so regarded. He for one declined to think that any man outside the Treasury Bench would venture to arraign the position which these men took up. The Irishmen whom he had named knew what they were talking about, and they were as honest

as any Englishman. Many of them differed in politics from the Nationalist Members, but they were high-minded men who would not lend themselves to deception in this matter of so great a magnitude. He could only hope that the shamelessness and audacity with which previous Chancellors of the Exchequer had rebutted this claim for justice would not be repeated in the present instance. Whenever they had brought forward this grievance they had been met by hardy denials of notorious facts, or else by paltry and petty efforts of sophistry and rhetoric of which statesmen ought to be ashamed. Although they had occupied a good many hours of the time of the House in debating this subject, he for one thought they ought to take not only the present occasion, but many of the opportunities of re-debating the question, if not in the hope that they would eventually obtain justice, at all events in the confidence that they were exposing to the world the gravest injustice that one country could be guilty of towards another.

What was their grievance? It was that they were overtaxed to the extent of several millions annually. Was that true or false? The Chancellor of the Exchequer denied that it was true. His idea was that they were generously treated. He should like before he went any further to draw attention to a remarkable passage in a famous document by a previous Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was also a Conservative. In the year 1864 a Select Committee was appointed on the Motion of General Dunne. This very question of the taxation of Ireland was laid before that Committee and it reported upon it, and Sir Stafford Northcote said—

“Since 1845 the share which Great Britain has had in the remission of Imperial taxation has been proportionately much larger than that which Ireland has, and the additions made to the Imperial taxation of Ireland have been proportionately much heavier than those made to the taxation of Great Britain. It is not surprising that the large increase which your Committee have noticed in the general taxation since 1845 should have given rise to complaint. Nor is it surprising that louder complaints should have been made by Ireland than by other parts of the United Kingdom. The pressure will be felt most by the weakest part of the community; and as the average wealth of the Irish taxpayer is less than the average wealth of the English taxpayer, the ability of Ireland to bear heavy taxation is evidently less than the ability of England. Mr. Senior,

whose evidence upon the position of Ireland will be found very suggestive, remarks that the taxation of England is both the heaviest and the lightest in Europe—the heaviest as regards the amount raised, the lightest as regards the ability to bear that amount—but that, in the case of Ireland, it is heavy, both as regards the amount and as regards the ability of the contributor; and he adds that England is the most lightly taxed and Ireland the most heavily taxed country in Europe, although both are nominally liable to equal taxation.”

It was clear from this that the right hon. Gentleman did not sneer at their statements, he did not ridicule them, on the contrary, he practically admitted that they had a good case, and he ventured to assert, notwithstanding the eminence of the present Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Chancellors of the Exchequer who had succeeded Sir Stafford Northcote, that the reputation of that right hon. Gentleman as a fair and honest-minded man could not be possibly attacked.

How had they fared since the time of Sir Stafford Northcote? This was a matter which could only be determined by figures. He had, unfortunately, only official figures which he could submit to the House, and of course he could not altogether rely upon those figures. He did not accuse the Treasury of deliberately “cooking” the accounts, but he said that it might be possible for them to do so, and he did declare that the figures were framed to the disadvantage of Ireland habitually. He was certain that the figures were not unjust to England, but taking them as they were, what did they find? A Return was issued on the previous day in regard to this matter, and he ventured to assert that many hon. Members of the House would cast their votes on the present occasion without having taken the trouble to examine that Return. They would not know a single thing about what the figures exhibited. He would like to tell them what they were. The Return showed that in the year 1849 their Imperial taxation was £4,861,465. The population of Ireland was 6,574,278 and the taxation per head for Imperial purposes was 14s. 9d. What happened in the year 1850? Taxation went up to £7,700,000 and the population fell by three-quarters of a million, and therefore they had the taxation almost

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doubled. Did that not reveal the injustice of their financial relations? While the population was decreasing the burden was increasing, and the man who could add £3,000,000 to the taxation of Ireland a year at such a time must have had very little regard to the interest of that country and very little consideration for the interests of humanity. What was the last Return? It was for 1901-2, and it showed that the population of Ireland had fallen to 4,443,370, the taxation had gone up to £9,784,000, and the taxation per head, which was 14s. 9d. in 1849, last year had risen to £2 5s. 4d. Was there not something unique in that state of things?—when the taxation was rising, and the population—which, after all, was the chief source of wealth—was decreasing. What had happened since 1898? In that year, after some difficulty, the Government were induced to make an agricultural grant. For two years that “honest and respectable” Government endeavoured to hoodwink them by giving a grant of £150,000 a year. But two years later they were obliged to confess on the floor of the House that the proper amount should have been £750,000 per year, and accordingly they were compelled to increase the grant by £600,000 annually. What had become of the grant? It had been swallowed up in the increase of Imperial taxation. What was the increase of taxation for? It was not required for Ireland, because Ireland did not require any of it. She was not at war with any other nation under the sun—she had no right, in fact, to go to war; and if the money had only been spent on the industrial resources of the country, there would not have been such grave cause for complaint. But the fact was that Great Britain had chosen, rightly or wrongly, to embark for her own purposes upon a bad and costly Imperial policy, and she was dragging Ireland after her into that enterprise by making her pay part of the cost. No doubt Great Britain could afford to pay that cost, for, as the Colonial Secretary said the other day at Birmingham, they could not only pay the present burden for the war, but they could pay it over again if the necessity arose. Ireland was not in that position. What was a pleasant, though a costly,

excursion to the senior partner in the concern known as the United Kingdom was a perilous, and even fatal, excursion to its unwilling partner. When was a stop to be put to this increase of Imperial taxation? Supposing it went up to £10,000,000 next year, to £11,000,000 the following year, and £12,000,000 the year after that—it might eventually reach £15,000,000 or £20,000,000. Would even the present Chancellor of the Exchequer say that Ireland could stand such a drain? Could the money be possibly squeezed out of the country without having fatal effects? He ventured to assert that the mere fact that a sum of £10,000,000, which was being annually extracted out of Ireland for Imperial purposes, was a deadly fact for Irishmen to consider and for Englishmen to answer. It was a fact which must lead ultimately to the destruction of Ireland. No other country in Europe of the same size, population, and resources paid anything like that amount in Imperial taxation.

It was said that their grievance was disappearing. A short time ago he referred to the fact that they were always met with hardy denials of notorious facts, or by paltry and petty devices of sophistry and rhetoric. One of these devices was that the percentage of contributions was less now than it was before, and therefore their grievance was disappearing. Surely that was very strange, considering that the taxation was increasing. Naturally, the percentage must come down if there was a general increase of taxation, because England would always be the richer partner in proportion to Ireland, and consequently the more taxation was levied upon the whole of the United Kingdom the less would be the percentage of the Irish contribution. But, as a matter of fact, their grievance was not disappearing. If that theory which had been put forward were correct, the only result would be that the more and more they added to the taxation the less became the Irish grievance. He might mention the story of a Munster barrister who had been engaged in defending a prisoner at the Cork Assizes, for which services he had received a fee of £1 when it should have been one guinea. He was promptly called to account for such professional misconduct, and his reply was that he had taken all

that the prisoner had. It seemed to him that the English Government were treating Irishmen in the same way. They were not only guilty of unprofessional conduct, but they were taking all that Ireland possessed. It was a monstrous piece of cruelty to extract £10,000,000 or £11,000,000 annually from Ireland for the purposes of Imperial taxation. They could not take such a sum out of the country without injuring it, and the inevitable result must be ruin. The worst of the case was that the money was being taken not from a wealthy class but from the poorest classes of the community, and that was a matter to which special attention ought to be drawn.

Some question had been raised as to what were the proper tests as to the comparative wealth of England and Ireland. The Commission of 1894, after an exhaustive examination of the facts as to the resources of the two countries, came to the conclusion that Great Britain was at least twenty times as wealthy as Ireland. That was the opinion of the majority of the Commission, but that was obviously the result of a compromise, and many members of that Commission must have held the belief that the proportion of wealth was still more marked. That eminent statistician Sir Robert Giffen had come to the conclusion that Great Britain was fifty times as wealthy as Ireland. There was still another test which might be applied. It was a small matter, but still it showed which way the wind blew. This test he referred to was based upon the amount of capital invested in companies carrying on operations in various countries. Ireland had £34,000,000 so invested in such companies, Scotland had £114,000,000, and England £1,300,000,000. If that was to be accepted as a criterion of the proportion of wealth, it showed, at any rate, that England was by far the most wealthy member of the firm. Possibly none of these tests could be accepted as conclusive, but they all pointed to the same irresistible conclusion—that Ireland was infinitely less wealthy than England. Could any hon. Member visiting Ireland come to any other conclusion than that the country was poverty-stricken? Look at the poor, miserable homes on the countryside in Ireland. Look at the roofless cabins

all over the place, and the grass-grown streets, the idle mills on the banks, and the factories standing idle; and then look across to England and see the teeming millions that work, the thousands of factories in full swing, the millions of money invested in foreign and other securities, with the possibility of raising at two or three days notice a sum of £30,000,000 or £40,000,000 for the purposes of a war; and was it possible to come to any other conclusion than that there was no similarity of circumstances between the two countries, and that it was a downright cruelty to tax them on the same basis? After all, this was a matter of arithmetic, and the difficulties could be easily worked out. He ventured to think that any one taking the trouble to do so must realise that Irishmen had an undoubted grievance, and that they were shockingly overtaxed.

What were the answers that were made to their complaints? Sometimes the answers were flippant, and sometimes they were serious. He would like first to take a flippant answer, which was made by the present Prime Minister on his recent visit to Manchester. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that there was a way open to the Irish people of getting rid of their grievances; let them not drink tea or coffee, not smoke tobacco, not eat Indian meal, not eat anything, let them not wear clothes—and their grievances would disappear! He might have asked the First Lord of the Treasury to relieve the Irish people in another way—by giving up waging such wars as the Boer war, which had done this country no good. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was a more serious-minded man, had a different kind of answer to the Irish Members' complaint and demand. That right hon. Gentleman said that there could be no injustice, because England, Scotland, and Ireland were treated alike, and all made subject to the same common system of taxation. There were two answers to that argument. A common system of taxation might press more heavily on one district than on another. One of the statements in the Report of the Royal Commission was that identity of the rate of taxation did not necessarily involve equality of burden. The common comment upon that was very curious.

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"Oh," it was said, "that is a mere truism," as if that would make it any the less true. But they might have, as they did have, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, a common system of taxation, affecting principally the poor and the industrial classes, but affecting Ireland more than England or Scotland, because there were more poor in Ireland than in the other countries. In proof of this, he pointed to the fact that all Chancellors of the Exchequer, no matter on which side of the House they sat, recognised that not more than 50 per cent. of the revenue should be raised by indirect taxation. But in Ireland 75 per cent. of the Irish revenue was derived from indirect taxation. There was no getting away from that injustice to Ireland. It was pretended, of course, that there were poor persons and poor districts in England and Scotland as well as in Ireland; but the difference lay in the existence of the English Channel. Perhaps if the English Channel had never existed Ireland would have been a happier country. But they could not abolish the channel, and the result was that, whilst in England there were poor districts, these depended on the neighbouring rich districts; and if agriculture failed, the people had the industrial towns to go to, where they could have constant and remunerative employment. On the other hand, in Ireland, when agriculture failed, there was no other resource for the people than to depend for help on those who were almost as poor as themselves.

But their greatest answer to the common-system-of-taxation argument—although it did not detract in the least from what he had said—was that it was a violation of the Treaty of Union made between England and Ireland. That was their historical case, and he, for one, would never abandon it. It was the great-sheet anchor of their position. In 1800 Ireland was guaranteed a lower rate of taxation and separate treatment in the matter of taxation after the Union. Article 7 of that Treaty provided for a revision of the financial position every twenty years. That pointed in the plainest possible manner to separate treatment. As long as the circumstances of the two countries remained dissimilar it could mean nothing else. If that were

disputed he would quote an authority who was in a position to speak—viz. Lord Castlereagh himself. He had not great veneration for Lord Castlereagh, for he had no hesitation in saying that that nobleman stabbed his country in 1800, that his promises, fair though they were, were never intended to be fulfilled, and that he had a most malicious, instead of a most beneficent, intention towards Ireland. He looked with disgust and contempt on the man who attributed in his hearing any good or noble intention, or act of statesmanship towards Ireland, to a creature like that. At any rate, he was entitled to use his Lordship's words relative to the Treaty of Union. Lord Castlereagh said—

"As for the future, it is expected that the two countries can move forward together; united in regard to expenses in the measure of their relative ability, and by there being a provision for the revision, Ireland has the utmost possible security that she cannot be taxed beyond the measure of her comparative ability, and that the ratio of her contribution must ever correspond with her relative wealth and prosperity."

Now, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the face of that statement, would, he supposed, get up today again, as he did last year, and say that the interpretation by the Irish Members of the Treaty of Union was wrong; that what that Treaty looked forward to, and provided for specifically, was not separate treatment but common taxation. Well, he thought that it was rather too much, even for a right hon. Gentleman in his position, for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to dispose of the matter in that way—"I am sorry," he says, "that my view differs from that of hon. Gentlemen opposite." As if that concluded the matter! But the right hon. Gentleman was not as good an authority on the Treaty of Union as Lord Castlereagh. And here he took leave to say that, so far as he had been able to ascertain legal opinion on that point—and he had made an effort to do so—that legal opinion was entirely on the side of the contention of the Irish Members, and entirely against the Chancellor of the Exchequer. After having quoted the text of the Treaty of Union, and the explanation of it given by Lord Castlereagh, it would not do for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to get up and say—"I differ from your view; my view is quite enough."

The Irish Members did not take that explanation, and he was perfectly certain that the House of Commons, if it was quite free to vote, would not take it either. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the Treaty of Union was obsolete. He wished it was. There was a time when the Irish Conservatives argued strongly that the disestablishment of the Irish Church had broken the Treaty and that the whole Act of Union had disappeared. That statement was made at several Orange meetings and by leading Conservatives, including one distinguished lawyer who became a County Court Judge, or a Judge of the High Court. He thought himself that there would have been some foundation for that argument if the abrogation of the fifth Article of the Treaty of Union, which guaranteed the permanent existence of the Irish Protestant Church, had not been assented to by the majority of the Irish representatives in this House. But although the Irish people did not initiate the agitation for the disestablishment of the Irish Church—that was the work of the English Liberation Society—they did vote for the disestablishment of the Church and the abrogation of Article 5; and consequently it was not a violation of the Treaty of Union. But if Article 7 was obsolete, then what became of Article 2, by which the Irish Members were compelled to be here in this House? The 2nd Article was as old as the 7th, and if, forsooth, it was said that the 7th Article was obsolete, then, he maintained, there was very little logical or legal validity in saying that Article 2, by which the Parliament of Ireland was extinguished, was still in force. At the present time the Colonies, through their Premiers, were holding a conference with the Colonial Secretary. He did not know what was going on, but there was, at all events, a rumour of establishing a Zollverein and making some agreement between the Colonies and the Mother Country, and, as he understood, some specious invitations were addressed to the representatives of the Colonies to enter into this agreement. He would offer one word of advice to Sir Edward Barton, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and the other colonial Premiers. He would advise them to read the speeches which the Colonial Secretary had delivered in the course of these

debates, and not to enter into an agreement with England, because if any agreement was entered into which seemed to be good for the Colonies, both now and in the future, it would inevitably be broken. If the terms of the Union were to be kept, there was no answer to the case they had made out.

Another argument that was brought against them was that they were not really over-taxed, because most of the money that was levied on taxation was spent in Ireland. He was really ashamed to have again to answer a thing he had already answered so many times in a way to which no reply was ever forthcoming from the Treasury Bench. In the first place, it was established by Mr. Gladstone in the Home Rule debates that the several charges on Ireland, if they were made upon the same scale as those on England, would be half what they were. The meaning of that was that they were spending twice as much in Ireland, not for Irish but for English purposes, and the chief reason for that was to keep the Irish people down; and to maintain the Union by force and corruption, they were voting millions every year in the shape of Irish Estimates. Half those Estimates were to pay the English supporters. There was not a single supporter of the Government in Ireland, who either was not paid or who did not expect to be paid. That was one of the reasons for refusing to redress the financial grievances of the country. The second thing he would say, was that the Government had no right under the law to take into account the expenditure at all. By the Act of 1817, expenditure was to be made in any part of the United Kingdom according to the necessities of the case. It was not to be allocated, a certain proportion to England and to Ireland and to Scotland, but was to be made whenever and wherever it was required, so that there was a legal objection in the way of setting off the expenditure against taxation. It was the most ridiculous argument in the world to say that because the money was spent in Ireland the people were not overtaxed, and there was no grievance. Turkey was supposed to be overtaxed, but upon this theory it was not overtaxed at all, because the Sultan spent all

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the revenue in Turkey. Upon the same grounds Italy was not overtaxed, because all the money was spent at home. He utterly repudiated the theory that expenditure was to be set off against taxation, and it was no answer to their case.

He would not longer detain the House. He thought he had made a perfectly good case. He had not consciously overstated it, and he had endeavoured fairly and squarely to meet the arguments against it. Although they had made out a good case, he did not expect any good would result from this debate. He would frankly say, whatever the reason might be, it had always struck him that it was in financial matters that England had always acted the meanest part towards Ireland. Nothing was more contemptible or unjust than the financial treatment of Ireland, a treatment which had no regard to their resources, to their historical claims for proper treatment, or their future, and, apparently, had no intention of keeping Ireland a loyal member of the Commonwealth. That attitude had been maintained for many years by different Governments; he did not complain of Unionist or Conservative Governments in particular; he thought that Liberal Governments in the past had been the worst of the two. Although, probably, no immediate result would ensue from raising this matter, they had had, at all events, the satisfaction of having proved that towards Ireland England had acted the part of an unrepentant robber. He begged to move the Resolution standing in his name.

*(1.27.) MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) said it would certainly not be necessary for him, in seconding this Motion, to go into the details of the case. Though his hon. friend had acted wisely in addressing himself to the historical aspects of the case, he should address himself to that aspect which presented itself in recent years, not because he thought his hon. friend was wrong in taking the course he did, but because he thought they would not make much progress along those lines. Englishmen, as a rule, had very little interest in what happened more

than twenty years previously, and probably were as much interested in the treaty of the Union as they were in the treaty of Limerick. Nevertheless, he entirely agreed that they ought to put forward the argument from the Act of Union over and over again, because they could not abandon any part of their case. He thought they were absolutely right in their contention as to the special treatment which the provisions of the Act of Union accorded to Ireland. It must be plain to everybody that a poor country like Ireland could not bear the same rate of taxation as could be borne with perfect ease by a country more wealthy. That consideration must have been present to the minds of the statesmen who passed the Act of Union, and those who dealt with the affairs of the country in the years that followed the Union, and that was the reason why Mr. Gladstone, in imposing income tax on Ireland, imposed it for a time only. The interesting book of the hon. Member for West Islington gave a most admirable Table with regard to these matters. It shewed that in Ireland no less than four-fifths of the income was taken by taxation, whereas one-ninth was the amount taken in England. That itself showed how disproportionate the burden was. In those years which immediately preceded the union, when Ireland governed herself, £2,000,000 or £3,000,000 sufficed for all the purposes of the Government, and most ample and generous contributions for Imperial purposes besides, in spite of the fact that the revenue of Ireland was burdened by pensions for all sorts of people who were too disreputable to be placed on the English Civil List. During that period all the great public buildings which adorned the capital were built with Irish money supplied by the Irish Parliament. Under the Government of this country, in 1819 the estimated revenue had already increased to £5,253,909, and the taxation per head was 15s. 5d., and with the exception of a year or two during the whole of the time in which Ireland had been tied up in this partnership the taxes had steadily increased. In 1901-2 the taxation had risen to £11,353,000, and the taxation per head had risen from 15s. 6d. to £2⁴/_{4s}. He had not the figures for Great

Britain for the same years, but his impression was that, while the revenue had greatly increased, the taxation per head had actually lessened. They had had in the previous two days some good reasons given for the unrest of Ireland under English rule. An extraordinary light had been thrown upon the administration of justice in Ireland, and the House had seen a most extraordinary and convincing picture of the manner in which the people of Ireland looked upon the administration of justice in Ireland in that amazing case in which an innocent man was shown to have pleaded guilty in order to get a light sentence. Now the House was asked to consider another of the causes of that unrest. Since the Act of Union there had been many Governments—Tory Governments and Liberal Governments, progressive Governments and reactionary Governments, conciliatory Governments and coercive Governments—but all agreed in one thing. Each Government continually extracted from a diminishing people a greater and a greater revenue. Surely nothing further was required to explain the continued unrest in Ireland.

Who were the people on whom these imposts were levied? He did not take a despairing view of his country, he did not believe that everything was on the down grade; in certain classes there had been a great improvement. The Land Acts had contributed greatly to the welfare of the Irish farmers, but every possible improvement was being swallowed up in this continually increasing taxation. In any case, what might be true of some parts of the country was not true of the whole. Just lately they had had an extraordinary flood of light thrown upon the condition of the people in the west of Ireland, the whole of which might be said to be congested, although it was not all so scheduled, and it was on those who were the poorest that the taxation fell heaviest. He had had six years experience as a member of a Board of Guardians in the west of Ireland and he knew the extraordinary difficulty these poor people had to provide for themselves the common decencies of life. A 1d. rate only produced in that union £49 a year, and surely those people had enough to do to live and provide themselves with the merest

necessities of life. Yet it was on those people that the English Government piled up year after year more and more taxation. The food of these people consisted to a large extent of meal and tea. The tax on tea had within recent years been increased by 50 per cent., and an impost had recently been put on meal. He acknowledged with gratitude the action of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in abandoning one-half of that tax, but it was obvious that, *pro tanto*, there would be an increase of taxation imposed upon those poor people even this year. What concern with Imperial purposes had these people, who could scarce keep body and soul together, and who could not afford proper nursing for their sick? It might be said that seamstresses, dock labourers, and the poorer classes in England had equally little concern in those purposes, but, at any rate, it could be argued that they had in some sort of way expressed their concurrence in the Imperial policy of expansion which was dragging Ireland down. That, however, could not be said of the people of Ireland; they had their own case and were fighting their own battle. Both on treaty grounds and on the broad general grounds of the welfare of what, after all, by the desire of the English people, was a portion of the British Empire, they had a good case and a right to press it.

They were sometimes asked what remedy they proposed. He did not profess to speak with any sort of authority on that point. The most obvious way to deal with the question would be to revert to the old system of separate Exchequers. That, at any rate, had the merit of thoroughness; it would then be possible to rearrange the financial position of the two countries in a manner suitable to each, and the system would possess other great advantages. They could not, at present, however, hope for any such solution of the difficulty. They did not abandon the claim; on the contrary, they would still press for it; but it was possible, without abandoning any portion of their case, to recognise that, while they could not get satisfaction of their full claim, they might be able to find a means of removing a portion of the grievance. There were two ways in which that might be done. One was the remission of the particular taxes, such as those on sugar, tea, and meal, which

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pressed with undue weight on the Irish people. The other was much less satisfactory, because he would prefer to keep the money in the pockets of the people, but the difficulty could be partially met by increased Exchequer contributions. For the moment he merely asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to do something towards meeting the claim they had put forward by adopting the recommendations of the Local Taxation Commission, and by granting an additional sum in relief of Irish local taxation, especially proportioned to the varying needs of the poor localities.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the overtaxation of Ireland, established by the recent Royal Commission on Financial Relations, constitutes a serious and pressing grievance as regards that country, and demands the early attention of Government with a view to its removal."—(*Mr. Clancy.*)

(1.52.) MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) rose for the purpose, not of taking part in the general discussion, but of asking a direct question of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The right hon. Gentleman had recently stated, in reference to the increased education grant for England, that there was no case for an equivalent grant for Ireland, and that it did not follow, because a special grant was made for England, that an equivalent grant should be made for Ireland. He had further stated, however, that if a case could be made out for an additional grant for education, it would be taken into account in considering the question. In view of that answer, he reminded the right hon. Gentleman that there was an educational question which had been pressed upon the Government for three or four years without any satisfaction being obtained. Deputation after deputation had waited on the Chief Secretary, who entirely agreed with them as to the grievance and its remedy, but who washed his hands of the whole business, declaring that the Treasury blocked the way. He, therefore, desired to put it to the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the question of the training college in Marlborough Street was not one which ought to be settled now. The students were being lodged in tenant-houses of the worst description, and in a district

in which immoral houses prevailed. What right had the Government of England to put students in such a position? In view of the recent declaration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take this matter into his consideration, and make a grant so that this legitimate grievance might be removed, and the students placed in a decent position.

*(1.56.) MR. M'KEAN (Monaghan, S.) said that after the eloquent speeches of the mover and seconder of the resolution it was really unnecessary for him to speak at length on this question, except to emphasise the points which had been so ably put forward. He would be sorry to share in the opinion of the hon. Member for North Dublin that no immediate result was likely to accrue from the debate. The injustice in the case was so glaring, and constituted such a grave international scandal, that he could not for the life of him understand how men who called themselves honourable could sit on the Treasury Bench knowing of this injustice and yet refusing to redress it. From one point of view, the present time was most opportune for an exhaustive discussion of the subject. The conclusion of hostilities in South Africa would enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if Parliament was sufficiently well advised, to make provision for the redress of this grievance next year without having to increase existing taxation—in fact, he would be able to make substantial remissions, and yet remove the grievance. The Prime Minister had recently deprecated the annual review of this subject. It was easy to understand that he should take that view, as it could not be a pleasant matter for contemplation to the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues. It was doubtful whether in the whole history of the relations between civilised nations there was any parallel for such a state of things.

He proposed, first of all, to deal with the question from a historical point of view, and he would take three different periods, the first of which was anterior to the Union. Ireland once had a Parliament of her own, and those were halcyon days for Ireland. In those days the taxes of

Ireland were light, and certainly not more than about 3s. 6d. per head of the population, but now they amounted to £2 4s. 6d. per head. The National Debt in those days was merely nominal, amounting in 1783 to less than £2,000,000; and as a consequence Ireland was able to pay her way among the nations of the earth without the least difficulty. But this happy state of things did not suit certain so-called statesmen in this country, statesmen of the school whose fatuous policy a short time before had lost to England one of her most promising colonial possessions. The *agent provocateur* was set to work, the Sergeant Sheridans of those days were set to work in Ireland, and the result was the disturbances which culminated in the rebellion of 1798. That served as the pretext for two objects—in the first place for a political union with England; and in the second place for a not less disastrous fiscal union with this country. They all knew what those two Unions had done for Ireland. It was said that the tree was known by its fruit; and by its results let the Union be judged. What were the results? One paragraph in the historic Report which had been referred to stated that during the sixteen years which immediately followed the Union the debts and the taxes of Ireland were quadrupled, and Ireland was on the verge of bankruptcy. Certainly that was a bad record of sixteen years of British rule in Ireland.

He would leave that point and advance to the second historic period from which he wished to view this question, namely, the middle of the nineteenth century. At that time Ireland lay weak and prostrate from the effects of a terrible famine. So desperate was her position that a great Irishman, who afterwards became one of our most distinguished colonial premiers, retired from his country in despair, leaving her, as he said, like a corpse on the dissecting table. Fancy English rule in Ireland being described as like a corpse on the dissecting table! Incredible as it might seem to any man who was not familiar with English methods and the spirit of English rule in Ireland, this was the time that Ministers in this country selected to impose a double incubus upon Ireland in

addition to the incubus that was already crushing her to death. Here was a tragic picture of a nation being mercilessly and callously bled to death—for what else was it? Just in the same way, Irish industries were extinguished some sixty years ago. Industries were the bread of the country, and just as they had extinguished Irish industries to the injury of the men and women of Ireland who were its flesh and life, so now, this country had fixed its tentacles on Ireland, and from every vein, from every artery, and from every pore they were sucking her blood. And what a hideous, wasted wreck they had left behind! The wonder was that there was any Irish nation left at all today. And were it not for the mercy of that Power which watches over the destiny of nations, there would have been no Ireland at all today. It had often occurred to him what language would have been used in this country if these things had been done by another nation. How the English blood would have boiled with honest indignation, and how they would have raised their eyes to Heaven in pious horror at the iniquity of the wrong-doer! And yet this country, year in and year out, generation after generation, Ministry after Ministry, went on perpetrating one of the cruellest and foulest wrongs that had ever stained the record of a nation.

He would now advance to the third period, and deal with the present time. What was the finding of the Royal Commission which sat in the year 1894? In one of the paragraphs of that Report it stated, as well as he could remember it, that, taking the basis established by the joint Report, the taxation of Ireland in that year, instead of being £7,000,000 odd, would have been very nearly £3,000,000 less. There was a paragraph in the joint Report which he would read to the House. The words used in the Report were—

“That, whilst the actual taxation revenue of Ireland is about one-eleventh that of Great Britain, the relative taxable capacity of Ireland is very much smaller, and is not estimated by any of us as exceeding one-twentieth.”

Did the House and this country realise the significance of this short but momentous declaration? He really believed that they did not. Certainly they never could have realised it in the past, for had they done so it would have been impossible to

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delay the remedying of this injustice for one single day. What did that paragraph mean? It meant four short, simple words. It meant "caught in the act." It meant caught in the act of robbing Ireland. He differed from his hon. friend the Member for North Dublin upon this point, for he thought that the remedy could not be delayed, and it would have to be found in the near future. It was impossible for the Government to continue its policy of burying its head in the sands of politics. He would rather be a crossing-sweeper earning an honest wage of 10s. a week than be sitting on the Treasury Bench and earning, or pretending to earn, a salary of £5,000 a year under the circumstances under which right hon. Gentlemen opposite drew their salaries. It had been a standing subject of wonder with him how any men of common honour or honesty could remain members of all these successive Governments, and make themselves parties to, and participants in, this gross act of injustice to Ireland by refusing to redress it. The explanation of this phenomenon was given by his hon. friend the Member for North Cork in this House when they obtained the final concession from the Chancellor of the Exchequer a short time ago. He feared very much that there was no public conscience in this House, and that there was no moral sense on the Treasury Bench. They were governed in the House of Commons, and, he feared, in this country by one influence, and one influence alone, and that was expediency. Today the Government had their majority of 150, and yet their ears were deaf to the voice of Ireland. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: They are not sitting here now.] He did not care, and they could stay away if they liked, for it did not matter much about the dead-heads who usually filled the Benches opposite. In a few years time, when the present Government returned to power with a majority reduced to fifty or sixty, then they would suddenly wake up to the justice and reasonableness of Irish demands.

He had never had the advantage of hearing the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer's reply to an Irish case, nor had he ever read a speech by him or by anybody else, either for or against, upon this question. Therefore, he was

at a disadvantage to know what his case might be. He had, however, read the Reports of the Royal Commission, and he knew that two or three of the distinguished gentleman who constituted that Commission cut themselves off from their colleagues, and issued a separate Report in favour of the side of the right hon. Gentleman. From those Reports, and from the speech of his hon. friend who spoke before him, he had managed to deduce some of the so-called arguments against the Irish case. One of the tests of the taxable capacity of Ireland, referred to in the joint Report of the Commission, was that based upon the assessment of income tax. Sir Thomas Sutherland, who issued a separate Report, stated that he could not see his way to accept this test. It was accepted by Sir Robert Giffen and Sir David Barbour. These gentlemen also brought forward the argument that wealth was not a standard under the British system of taxation. No, it was not; and that showed the rottenness of the system. Sir Thomas Sutherland did not see that in making that admission he was saying that their system of taxation violated one of the fundamental principles of any just and equitable system of taxation. What was that principle? Why, that the burden to be borne should be proportioned and adapted to the strength of the bearer. The sooner they made comparative wealth the standard of taxation the better, for some day the democracy of this country would wake up. They were blind now, but the scales would fall from their eyes, and they would see what fools they were. In the last three years something like twelve additional taxes had been put on, and in each case the tax fell on the workers. No fresh imposts had been put on the landlords. This additional taxation had arisen mainly through wars in which this country had been engaged. What concern had the people of Ireland in these wars? What interest had they in the wars which were waged a century ago? England derived benefit from wars in the way of new territory, giving new homes for her surplus population, and providing new markets for her surplus products. They added new lustre, and possibly new infamy, to the name

of this country. But in none of these respects did Ireland gain. When the Irish people sought a new home, they preferred to do so in a land over which floated not the Union Jack, but the free flag of the United States. Therefore it was perfectly monstrous that when the Irish derived no benefit from those wars they should be asked to share in the cost.

He would mention another point, and it was a very good illustration of the contemptible arguments with which the Irish case was met. The Report of the Commission said that there were certain taxes which Ireland did not pay; but what did they amount to? These taxes only amounted to a miserable and beggarly four millions a year. These were the phantom exemptions they had under the Union. Another argument, mentioned incidentally by the hon. Member for North Dublin, was the geographical unit argument. It was said—"Oh! other parts of Great Britain suffer from the same injustice as certain parts of Ireland." Did two wrongs make one right? It had been well pointed out that the people who suffered injustice in this country had no treaty. Ireland had a treaty with Great Britain. What did this Parliament care about treaties? When a treaty suited them it was an inviolable document, but when it did not suit them it was waste paper. So much for English morality. The set-off argument was used that if Ireland was overtaxed the money was given back. The true question in this case was not whether the money was given back, but whether too much was being spent on the government of Ireland, having regard to the resources of the country. He denied that the expenditure on Ireland, except with regard possibly to an infinitesimal fraction of it, was spent for the good of the people of Ireland. It was spent in paying inflated salaries to their *quondam* political henchmen now seated on the judicial bench in Ireland. It was spent in paying the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland double the salary the Commonwealth of Australia was willing to allow to the official representative of this country out there. It was spent in maintaining an utterly disproportionate force of police in Ireland, whose chief business was to squeeze impossible rents out of a starving peasantry. It was

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spent in buying the loyalty of a section of the people of Ireland. In a word, it was spent in buttressing up the tottering fabric of British rule in Ireland, for tottering to its fall he was glad to say it was. If this House refused to redress these grievances, it was a fraud and a sham. Did they think that the Power that watched over and weighed so carefully the acts of men was indifferent to the actions and obligations of nations? He believed the moral code that bound individuals was binding also on nations. He believed that the penalty of national wrongdoing was national decay, decrepitude, and demoralisation—and of that there had been some evidence in the last year in this country—and, finally, national death. What he said to the Government was this—See if the handwriting is not already on the wall. (2.26.)

*(3.0.) MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that there were many contrasts between the Irish debate today and the debate on the previous day. They were now discussing matters relating to figures in a much quieter atmosphere. In the very able speech in which the Chief Secretary yesterday declared himself unable to make the reforms he was asked to make, he founded his refusal on the fear of lawlessness in Ireland. There was no lawlessness connected with the agitation they were now discussing. There were no difficulties of that kind to embarrass the administration, and on that ground it deserved more consideration from the Government than it had received. At any rate, the traditional excuse was not available on that occasion. They were discussing the question today with considerable advantages. In the first place a great deal of information on the subject had been acquired since it was first mentioned many years ago in the House; and that enabled them to avoid repeating constantly what he might call the historical part of the case. That was very ably stated, so far as was necessary, by the hon. Gentleman who opened the debate. He himself was sceptical of any appeal addressed to the House which was based on history. The House was the Assembly governing the country at the present moment; and would, he thought, be influenced more

by argument touching the existing situation. To help them to understand the situation, two Returns had been distributed by the Government within the last few weeks; and the Irish Party had also distributed a paper which showed exactly what the present situation was, looked at from the Irish standpoint. The existence of these papers made it unnecessary to repeat figures which would be tedious to the House. The broad facts were well known; and hon. Members could form a judgment for themselves. Ireland was a country taxed by strangers—he did not use the term in any offensive sense. He believed the Chancellor of the Exchequer was friendly disposed towards Ireland; but, nevertheless, every tax imposed in Ireland was imposed by men who were not representatives of Ireland, and who gave little heed to the condition of things in that country. The country was taxed by strangers to it; and, in the matter of taxation, not the slightest heed was paid to anything that was said by its constitutional representatives in the House. That was a most extraordinary, almost an appalling situation. All the great historical crises in this country had arisen out of situations such as that. There was no constitutional principle more firmly grounded than that taxation should be by representation. But the case of Ireland was a worse evil than taxation without representation. Ireland had abundant representation in the House of Commons, and yet all the pleadings of her representatives with regard to this question were absolutely set aside, and the country was taxed by others who had no constitutional claim to talk in her behalf. That was a very striking situation. Another point was that when the taxation itself was examined they found that the amount of the taxes was growing very rapidly, while the yield of every tax in proportion was growing less. That was also a very striking fact. How was that anomaly secured? It was secured by putting on new burdens in a way which he might almost describe as ferocious. Thus, they had a situation in which a huge amount was being reaped out of a poor country, against the representations of her legally elected Members; that amount being constantly increased owing to the

imposition of new burdens, the yield of which was constantly diminishing. He thought that there was no situation in any other country in the world like that. It might be said that taxation was increasing in Great Britain; but there was no parallel between the two countries. In Great Britain taxation was increasing, and the yield was increasing. The population and the necessity for taxation were also increasing in Great Britain; but none of these things were occurring in Ireland; and, therefore, there was no strict parallel between the two countries.

The best means of summing up the situation would be to quote certain words spoken by the present Prime Minister four years ago. He replied for the Government to the case made for Ireland in June 1898, and his answer was printed and circulated by the Central Conservative Office. He said—

“These figures when worked out on the hypothesis that the Local Government Bill will be in operation, and that the expenditure and the true revenue are the same as they are in the present year, show that there is no grievance.”

The Local Government Act was now in operation; the expenditure remained the same; but the revenue had totally altered. The revenue was the burden, and it had been increased by no less than £2,500,000 in the present year. The whole defence of the Prime Minister was that the then existing figures should continue; but they had not continued, and nearly 30 per cent. more was now taken out of the country than at the time the Prime Minister used the words he had quoted. These words indicated that the Prime Minister thought the taxation was then sufficiently high, and he thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not repudiate that view. The Prime Minister on the occasion referred to went on to say that Ireland because of her depression was an object of British generosity and benevolence. Where was the generosity or the benevolence? The right hon. Gentleman further said that anything for the promotion of Irish industries or the diminution of Irish distress should be considered by the House apart from any nice calculations as to what was done elsewhere. Were they not justified, therefore, in asking the Prime Minister, now

that he had the power, to fulfil his definite promises? The situation was grave, and anything in the direction of amelioration should be done immediately.

What were the effects produced in Ireland? Some of them were very extraordinary. There was one effect which ought to be thought over by constitutional gentlemen especially on the other side of the House. All the patronage of the Crown in Ireland went to the minority instead of to the majority. That was a situation which did not exist in any other country in the world; but it had been in existence in Ireland for generations, and was full of danger. The minority in Ireland was as 1 to 4; perhaps in the matter of taxation it was even smaller; it was against the national claim and the national religion; yet it enjoyed all the patronage; and huge and constantly increasing sums of money were passing through its hands and into its pockets. He tried to make a calculation, and he found that in 1895 the minority in Ireland was represented in this House by eighteen gentlemen. Twelve of that number were now enjoying £40,000 a year from the State; and if he included the House of Lords the result would be that it would be found that a small group, not exceeding twenty, of the minority in Ireland were taking £60,000 a year from the State. It was very hard in a situation of that kind to keep out corruption; and he did not think it was kept out. He did not understand why the natural order of things which existed in every country in the world should be turned upside down in Ireland.

The continued depopulation of Ireland was often mentioned in this House, but he was afraid that English gentlemen had got into the way of thinking that that was a chronic state of affairs which could not be remedied. That matter ought to be especially considered this year, because the population Returns for Ireland were being issued, and they were of a most appalling character. There was an official tendency in Ireland to minimise the evil, but they now had the correct statement through the census Returns, which showed that there was a tremendous decline in the population which had no parallel in any country in the world. In 1845 the population of Ireland was 8·3 millions, now it was 4·4 millions. In 1845 the

population of Great Britain was 19·4 millions, now it was thirty-seven millions. The population of Ireland had been halved during the period, while the population of Great Britain had been doubled. In Australia and Canada the population had also doubled; and even in Denmark, which was a purely agricultural country, depending on exactly the same resources as Ireland, the population had slightly increased. In France the population had increased by four millions, although Alsace and Lorraine had been cut away. Italy had increased from nineteen millions to thirty-two millions; Russia, including Poland, from fifty-five millions to one hundred and thirty-seven millions, and Poland itself had increased rather more than the general average. Even Spain had increased from 14·2 millions to nineteen millions. It was sometimes said, however, that although the population of Ireland was decreasing, the condition of the remnant was improving. He had always questioned that. It would have been thought that if the population were falling so much, the unhealthy conditions of life which existed in England would not exist in Ireland. The census returns, however, showed a most disgraceful picture of over-crowding. In Kerry, with a total population of 193,000, there were no less than 3,074 tenements of one room, with more than two persons in each.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member seems to be discussing this matter rather beyond the limits of the question. The fact of the decreasing population of Ireland may be material to the issue, but the hon. Member will not be in order in giving detailed statistics as to the population of Ireland and of other countries.

*MR. LOUGH said he accepted the ruling, but it was a little difficult to discuss the question, because it might be said that none of the bad conditions he had mentioned arose from over taxation. In every county in Ireland, but particularly in Dublin, there was a disgraceful condition of over-crowding, which seemed to be evidence of great poverty; and that evil might be cured if some of the great wealth taken out of the country annually were devoted to it. Statistics in regard to agriculture also showed a very bad condition of things. There was a great want

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of capital throughout the country; 30,000 acres of land went out of cultivation last year; whereas there was an increase in the land going into grass and the land relapsing to waste bog and mountain. It seemed to him that the facts that he had mentioned showed that there was a sad condition of poverty, and that poverty could not be cured by paying each year a million or a half a million or some large sum out of the Exchequer.

If the question was looked at from any of the standpoints which he had mentioned it showed that there was a very grave situation to be dealt with; and if there was a real difficulty surely something might be done; some steps of a remedial nature might be taken. He would, therefore, make a few suggestions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if the right hon. Gentleman could give any promise to the House in regard to them they would be very thankfully received. He would not give his own remedies for the present condition of things, because they might be thought to be too violent. The first suggestion he would make was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should take steps to give the actual figures of the exports and imports of Ireland. The whole collection of taxation at present rested upon estimates. It was a terrible thing that they could not have the truth—the actual figures—upon which reliance could be placed. Ireland was the only country in the world which was deprived of these figures. Wales knew the quantity of coal and iron she exported, and butter was to Ireland what coal was to Wales. There was no reason why these figures should be refused. He appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the actual figures should be given, and then they need no longer rely upon estimates. He did not think Ireland got her fair share of the grant for technical education, and that was a matter that should be considered. Ireland could not accept the dictum that no equivalent grant could be given to her when a large sum for education had been granted to England. He recommended an amalgamation and improvement of the numerous small railways in Ireland.

*MR. SPEAKER said the hon. Member was now discussing the whole economic condition of Ireland and the remedy for every grievance. The question before the House was the financial relations.

*MR. LOUGH said that he had only desired to suggest a few methods by which the financial grievance might be ameliorated, and he had finished his suggestions. He would therefore conclude by recalling to the memory of the House an expression used by the Prime Minister at Fulham—

“The future of the Transvaal would show what British ideas of liberty, British ideas of Colonial self-government, and British purity of administration could do to amalgamate races, to bury ancient feuds and to make of South Africa what we have made of so many other portions of the world—repetitions of those free institutions under which we and our fathers have so long and so happily lived.”

It seemed hard that, while these expressions were being used of the Transvaal, a community so near should have to come to Parliament and make such complaints as those to which they had listened that day.

(3.30.) MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said it would be admitted that the appearance of the House did not redound to its credit. They were dealing with great constitutional questions of paramount importance, and the condition of the House was symptomatic of a general tendency to evade the problems presented by the financial condition of the country. He spoke for himself only on this question. Some items of Imperial expenditure in Ireland he did not regard as chargeable to Ireland at all. He disagreed with hon. Members from Ireland who did not think the Navy a benefit to Ireland.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): We have nothing left worth stealing.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: But he would make this concession to them. He would say that Ireland was no more chargeable with the Imperial expenditure on the Navy on moral grounds than Canada or Australia.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): Less.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON : But their full quota was drawn for naval expenditure, while nothing was taken from the Colonies, which were richer, or as rich, as Ireland. The first thing that was beyond doubt was that the Commission which reported on this subject of financial relations some years ago, declared that undoubtedly the taxable capacity of Ireland in comparison with that of Great Britain was not greater than one to twenty, while at that time the taxation revenue raised in Ireland was as one to eleven. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that things had altered for the better, and that it had come down in recent years to one to fifteen. But that was still a remarkable discrepancy which ought to have attracted more attention. It was, however, equally beyond doubt that no individual in Ireland paid in taxation a farthing more than if he were living in England.

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EX-CHEQUER (Sir M. HICKS BEACH, Bristol, W.) : Less.

MR. T. M. HEALY : Yes ; if he keeps a carriage and a manservant.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the one fact that Ireland as a separate financial entity was contributing far more than this country, and the other fact that no man was taxed more in Ireland than he would be in England, constituted together the paradox of the present financial situation. But this must be true ; that if every individual tax payer in Great Britain and Ireland were taxed exactly in proportion to his taxable capacity, there would be complete equality of taxation between the two countries, even regarding them as separate entities. The situation would be greatly changed, and the complaint would be removed, if they could adjust the taxation of individuals so that each individual would be exactly taxed according to his capacity. There was no such individual taxation either in Great Britain or Ireland. His ideal tax was that each should be taxed according to his capacity to pay, and that all taxation should be direct, but if such a thing was proposed the very men who would gain most would rise in rebellion. It was indirect taxation which had this inevitable

result of individual inequality, and which worked out and remained as an inequality between the two countries. Both in Great Britain and in Ireland the burden of this inevitable inequality fell upon the poorest of the poor. The evil had been intensified by the financial policy of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made himself the exponent, the policy which was called broadening of the basis of taxation. That meant the increase of indirect taxation, and every increase of indirect taxation added to the evil. His main point was that though they were supposed to be dealing with an Irish case, it was not exclusively Irish and ought not to be so regarded. He admitted that the grievance had been proved, and he would vote for the Resolution, if only as an expression of his belief that a state of things had been proved which did, in some sort of way, demand the attention of the House and the country. But Irish Members had been content to prove the grievance without propounding any remedy themselves.

MR. T. M. HEALY : We should not be listened to.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said the hon. and learned Gentleman was not doing himself justice. He should like to know what it was the Irish Members would ask him to vote for in consequence of supporting this Resolution ? He was not going to rush in where Irish Members, he would not say had feared to tread, but had avoided treading ; but he wanted to make some suggestions as to the conditions which seemed to him to be required in regard to any remedy that might be proposed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would support him when he said he did not think any remedy was admissible which would involve financial confusion between Great Britain and Ireland. He did not think anything in the nature of separate customs, for instance, was admissible which might redress the balance of taxation and yet not remedy the individual grievance.

MR. T. M. HEALY : What about the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man ?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON : They are *de minimis*. We might abolish the income tax in Ireland, and so redress

the balance of taxation; but he did not suppose that the Members for Ireland wanted that.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Yes, we do.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he did not see how the poor of Ireland were to gain by the abolition of the income tax, although its abolition would redress the mere financial inequality that now existed between the two countries. He did not think, either, that any remedy would be right which, although redressing the financial balance, would aggravate the evils that existed in Great Britain—he meant advances made for Irish purposes involving an increase in indirect taxation upon the poor of this country. What, then, was to be done? He did not say this would be a complete remedy, but it would be a beginning, at all events—the establishment of what he would call a genuine system of democratic finance for Great Britain as well as for Ireland. There would be involved in that, to begin with, the seizure of all the monopoly values, vast in their amount, which were suffered to exist in both countries, and through them, relieve indirect taxation. The poor in Great Britain suffered under the present system enormously, and they were entitled to redress, in some shape, for the inevitable injustice that followed from the system under which they were taxed at the present moment. He would appeal to the hon. Members for Ireland, in urging the admitted grievance from which they suffered, not to separate themselves from the people of Great Britain, who also suffered under the same grievance.

*(3.52.) SIR M. HICKS BEACH: In the speech which the hon. Member for North Dublin addressed to the House in moving this Resolution, he almost apologised for his inability to throw any new light upon this long-discussed subject. But he made one observation in that speech in regard to myself, to which I would venture to demur. He accused me of, apparently, treating all those distinguished Irishmen who at present, or in past times, have differed from my view of this great subject as either fools or frauds. That is never the position I have taken up.

I admit that we approach this question from an absolutely different point of view, but I have tried, throughout the years it has been my duty to deal with it, to deal with it according to my honest convictions; and I give them credit for doing the same. But it is clear that Irish opinion has not been satisfied by the speech which has just been delivered. Far be it from me to suggest that the hon. Member for Dundee can be ranked either among fools or frauds—very much the contrary. He has spoken his mind freely and honestly; but the chilling silence with which his remarks were received on the benches below the gangway, and the open dissent of so influential a Member of the House as the hon. and learned Member for North Louth to his suggestion that the income tax ought not to be repealed in Ireland, on the ground, I suppose, that there are professional classes in that country whose interests are to be considered, as well as the interests of the poor, I think must have convinced him that, at any rate, he did not appreciate the Irish view of this question, and that he had rushed in, in his proposal of remedies, where Irishmen feared to tread. The hon. Member for Dundee has treated this question from an entirely different point of view from that from which it has usually been debated in this House. It has been debated here as an Irish question, and as an Irish question only. I do not say for a moment that there is not a good deal worthy of consideration in his remarks; but I entirely dissent from his conclusion that our present system of taxation requires a democratic reform, and that in Great Britain the classes who pay indirect taxation are so suffering as to be entitled to large redress in the matter.

I have always felt extreme difficulty in arguing this matter as against hon. Members from Ireland, because I entirely differ from their view of history with regard to it. Take the view which has been expressed to-day, and on previous occasions, by the hon. Member for North Dublin as to the character of the Act of Union. This Act has been described by him and by other hon. Members below the gangway as a fraud. We have heard often

enough that it has no binding authority upon them, and we know perfectly well that it never prevented, for a moment, Irish Members in past years from supporting, for example, such a breach of it as the Disestablishment and the Disendowment of the Irish Church any more than it prevents their successors now from supporting, as they steadfastly support, Home Rule for Ireland, without the slightest regard to the opinion of Great Britain upon that subject. I think the position of hon. Members for Ireland on this matter was very fairly summed up last session by the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool, when he said they could tear up the Act of Union without doing any particular wrong, but that England is bound in no way to weaken it to the detriment of Ireland. That would indeed be a one-sided bargain. [An IRISH MEMBER: A forced bargain.] That is not my view of it. I wish to deal with it to-day, as I have always dealt with it, as a fair bargain between the two Parliaments and the two countries, and I find, as I have always found, that I cannot interpret the financial provisions of the Act of Union in the same way as the hon. Member for North Dublin. The hon. Member for North Dublin told us today that the present system of equal taxation was, in his mind, a violation of the Act of Union, and that, under that Act, Ireland was entitled to a separate system of taxation, to be always continued subject to revision from time to time according to the taxable capacities of the two countries. But that is absolutely and diametrically opposed to my reading, or, I think, to any fair reading, of the Act of Union. That Act, from my point of view, distinctly contemplated a separate system of taxation as a temporary matter, and was intended to pave the way to a common system of taxation for the two kingdoms, under which every individual, whether English, Scottish, or Irish, should be liable to the same taxes wherever he might live, subject only to the celebrated proviso as to exemptions and abatements.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Can the right hon. Gentleman quote a single expression from the authors of that Act to that effect?

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*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I take the Act itself, from which it is perfectly clear that upon the fulfilment of certain conditions, the separate system of taxation and the separate exchequers, continued in the first instance as the relics of a different political system, were to be abolished. Well, the conditions were fulfilled. ["Not at all."] I do not think that hon. Members will improve the fair discussion of this question, even from their point of view, by these perpetual references to what they call fraud and robbery. Let us at any rate try to credit each other with an attempt at honest dealing. The conditions were admitted to be fulfilled in 1817, in which year, with the assent of the representatives of Ireland in the House of Commons at the time, the system of separate exchequers was abolished and a system of a common exchequer established.

Now, I know perfectly well that the hon. Member for North Dublin and those who agree with him on this question will say that the Irish Members of that day, before the passing of Catholic Emancipation, had no right to act on behalf of their country, and that their action is practically void.

MR. CLANCY: The right hon. Gentleman is not correct in his representation of my argument. My argument, both last year and today was that one of these conditions, viz., as to the circumstances of the two countries being similar has never been fulfilled.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That is a matter of opinion. It is the fact that they were considered to be fulfilled in 1817, and the only answer to the argument that I have ever heard is that the Irish Members of that day had no right to act on behalf of their country. But the Irish representatives of that day, in the exercise of their constitutional powers, had as good a right to act on behalf of the country as the Irish representatives of to-day. ["No, no"] It would be as illogical to contend fifty years hence, after, possibly, all kinds of changes in popular representation have taken place, perhaps after female suffrage has been established, or other great changes in the franchise have made the conditions of representation wholly different from what they are now—it would be as absurd to

contend that the Irish representatives of today had not the right to speak for Ireland now because of the changes afterwards made in the system of representation as it is to say now that the Irish representatives of 1817 had not a right to act for Ireland then because Catholic Emancipation was not passed until twelve years later. That, at any rate, is my view of the facts of 1817. Since that time there has been established gradually, no doubt, as between the two kingdoms, this equal system of taxation to which I have already alluded, and which, in my belief, is in itself the fairest system of taxation that could be instituted for the two countries. Now, of course, we have heard a great deal from time to time—less today, I think, than usual—as to the effect of the Report of the Royal Commission of 1894. I think the hon. Member claims somewhat too much for that Report in the terms of his motion to day. The Commission did not report that Ireland was overtaxed; the Commissioners did not get halfway in the solution of the question referred to them. The Commissioners did not deal for a moment with the question of the expenditure of the taxation, whether in Ireland or for Imperial purposes, which obviously to any one reading the reference to the Commission, formed as important a part of the subject in the minds of those who appointed the Commission as the question of the taxable capacity of the two countries. When the hon. Member for Dundee commented on the sparse attendance here today, I could not help thinking that that, to a great extent, might have been due to the fact that this Report of the Royal Commission, of which so much has been made, cannot be, and never has been, accepted by those who view the question from a Unionist, rather than a Separatist, point of view as in any way dealing with the great subject of taxation in the two kingdoms. It stopped half way, or less than half way, even if you look at it as a mode of solving the question of proper taxation of the two countries under a system of Home Rule. It had nothing whatever to do with the present system of taxation, which is the only practical system to my mind under our present system of political union. I think, therefore, that

excessive importance has been attached to the Report of the Commission by hon. Members below the gangway opposite. Something has been said to-day—a good deal by the hon. Member for Islington—about the present position as compared with that which existed at the date of the Report. I am disposed to agree with him that we shall do no good in this discussion by dwelling on the time, more than a hundred years ago, when the taxation and the debt of Ireland were alike small, when the expenditure was small, and when similar circumstances no doubt existed in England and Scotland; nor is it of much practical use to discuss the meaning and intention of the Act of Union or even the Report of the Royal Commission. I think the hon. Member for West Islington preferred to dwell rather on what had occurred since the Commission reported and on the growth of taxation in Ireland since that date.

MR. LOUGH: Only because I have referred to the other before.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: There was a rather remarkable paper circulated to Members two days ago by the Irish Parliamentary Party, which, I think, bears evidence on it of the authorship of the hon. Member for West Islington. I do not at all blame him for putting the case forward from his point of view, nor do I, for a moment, venture to criticise the Irish Parliamentary Party for accepting his figures; but I wish to deal with the statements in that paper, for I do not think they by any means fairly represent the facts of the case. In the first place, we are told that the facts brought to light by the Royal Commission “fade into insignificance when compared with the results in the years which have since elapsed,” and that “seeing the Report of the Royal Commission alleged that the over-taxation of Ireland in 1893–94 amounted to nearly £3,000,000 a year, it is surely remarkable that during the succeeding ten years instead of any relief being given £3,000,000 more should have been added to the burdens of a rapidly declining population.” I do not think that represents the position. £3,000,000 more have not been added to the burdens of a rapidly declining population.

MR. LOUGH: Including this year.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I thought I recognised the authorship. The hon. Member has made an estimate of the yield of taxation in Ireland this year with which I entirely disagree. I was unwise enough last year in debating this question to put before the House comparative Estimates for Ireland and Great Britain for the year that has just concluded. I was unwise, because my Estimates were falsified by results, some taxes producing more, some less. It is very much better to deal with the matter on the basis of ascertained facts than on the anticipations of the yield of taxation. Now, I take the facts for 1901-02, which are before the House, and what do I find? It is said that the position has changed for the worse since the date of the Report of the Royal Commission. I exclude non-tax revenue from the calculation, for it has nothing to do with the question—except so far as this, that the postal service, which is the principal source of non-tax revenue in this country, costs more in Ireland than is received from it. In 1893-94 the total Irish revenue from taxation was £6,644,000; in 1901-02 it was £8,712,000, an increase of £2,068,000 in Irish taxation, which I admit is large. But what was the case in Great Britain? The total revenue of the United Kingdom from taxation in 1893-94 was £82,439,000; in 1901-02 it was £130,199,000 an increase of £47,760,000. The Irish increase was 4.33 per cent. of the total increase of the United Kingdom, less than the 5 per cent. which, according to the much-quoted statement of the Royal Commission Report, was the taxable capacity of Ireland, as compared with Great Britain. Of every 21s. levied by taxation in the year 1893-94, Ireland's proportion was 1s. 8½d.; of every 21s. levied by taxation last year, Ireland's proportion was 1s. 5d. The Irish proportion of the total tax revenue in 1893-94 was 8.1 per cent., in 1901-02 it had fallen to 6.7 per cent. Those figures show that the Irish grievance, if it be treated, as the Royal Commission treated it, as a question of each country bearing a certain proportion of the whole taxation, is diminishing and not increasing. I have shown that the proportion now is

less than it was when the Commission reported; I have shown that of the increase Ireland pays a less proportion than the 5 per cent. which was suggested as her taxable capacity by the Royal Commission.

MR. CLANGY: And yet she pays £3,000,000 more a year.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Now, how is the money expended? The hon. Member for North Dublin told us, as he has before, that the expenditure is matter of common interest, while the taxation is a matter of separate interest. I decline to argue this matter on that ground at all. You may take common expenditure and common taxation, or you may take separate expenditure and separate taxation, but whichever you take, you must treat expenditure and taxation together. Then it has been said that the question of expenditure has nothing to do with it, that you levy too much taxation in Ireland, and that the grievance is not remedied because you spend more there; but that has been rather negated by the suggestions which have come from several hon. Members who have spoken today in favour of this Motion, that the grievance might be mitigated by the increase of the grants from the Imperial Exchequer at present given to Ireland, among them by the hon. Member for West Donegal in the very interesting speech in which he seconded the Motion.

But the contention of the hon. Member for North Dublin was this—that our expenditure in Ireland is for English and not Irish purposes, that it is to keep Ireland down by corruption and force, and that it is not for the good of Ireland at all. Well, let us see how much of the increased revenue of Ireland since the year 1893-94 has gone towards the local expenditure in Ireland, and to what it has been devoted. The expenditure in Ireland for local purposes in 1893-94 was £5,603,000; in 1901-02 it was £7,214,000, an increase of £1,611,000. How has that increase been spent? Has it been spent on the Lord Lieutenant? Not a bit. Has it been spent on the Constabulary? Not at all. The charge for the Constabulary was less last year than it was in 1893-94.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.): There was only a trifling difference.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I do not say that the difference was large, but that the amount was actually less. This £1,611,000 has been expended for Irish local purposes in which I venture to say hon. Members below the gangway opposite have agreed. It has been expended, in the first place, in increased grants for the purposes of the Local Government Board in connection with the establishment of local government in Ireland. It has been expended, in the second place, for increased grants to education. But it has been expended mainly for additional grants to local authorities, which in 1901-02 amounted to £1,621,000 as compared with £569,000 in 1893-94, owing of course, to the great grant in aid of agricultural ratepayers in Ireland and the establishment of the Department of Agriculture. That increase of £1,611,000 in local expenditure in Ireland, I will venture to say, has had the tacit, if not the active, approval of hon. Members below the gangway opposite, who now say we must not take it into account in considering the question at all.

Then what is left of the increased taxation of £2,068,000 to which I have referred? What is left, of course, is the additional contribution of Ireland for Imperial purposes. In 1893-94 her total contribution was £1,966,000, or 3·24 per cent. of the total expenditure of the United Kingdom for Imperial purposes. In 1901-02 it was £2,570,000. So far from being one-twentieth, as the report of the Royal Commission would suggest, I suppose, of the expenditure of the United Kingdom for Imperial purposes, it was barely one-fortieth, and was no more than 2·54 per cent. of the whole expenditure of the United Kingdom for Imperial purposes. In 1893-4 the total expenditure of the United Kingdom for Imperial purposes was £58,668,000; in 1901-2 it had risen to £101,185,000, an increase of £43,500,000 a year, out of which Ireland's contribution to the war and to the general increase of expenditure was only £600,000. That fact is met by the assertion that Ireland has no interest in Imperial purposes, that it

is not to the advantage of Ireland that we should maintain a navy, an army, or diplomatic relations with foreign Powers, or expend money for various colonial purposes, and for the supervision of trade and other objects in which the whole of the United Kingdom is concerned. I have heard it said in these debates that if Ireland were sunk beneath the Atlantic, England and Scotland would have to maintain just as large a navy, army, and diplomatic service, and that nothing would be saved. The suggestion that anybody is to be sunk beneath the Atlantic is never an agreeable one. But let us take a converse case. Suppose that England and Scotland were sunk beneath the ocean, would not Ireland require a navy or an army? [Nationalist cries of "No."] Is there nothing in Ireland attractive to foreign Powers? Is she so entirely disagreeable and impoverished a country that no great European Power, but for the existence of Great Britain, might desire to annex Ireland to her dominions? It is all very well, but no independent nation in the world can or does exist without those means of self-defence which are implied by the maintenance of a navy, an army, and those relations with foreign Powers which have to be provided under the head of Imperial expenditure. The hon. Member for Dundee, to my great astonishment, compared the position of Ireland in this respect with that of Canada and Australia.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: As to services rendered by the Navy.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: Did the hon. Member forget that Ireland is a part of the governing body of the Empire, that Irish Members sit in this House at least on equal terms with ourselves, that Ireland has a fuller representation in this House than any other part of the United Kingdom?

MR. T. M. HEALY: Then take it away.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: What I said was that, in respect of the value of the defence rendered by the Navy, the great Colonies were served as fully as Ireland, England, or Scotland.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: That may be a reason why the great Colonies should pay more than they do now towards the cost of the Navy; but it is impossible to deal with that without considering the question of control; and in these matters, according to her population and her position, Ireland has the power of control [Nationalist cries of "No!"]—oh, yes, she has!—which is not given to Canada or Australia. Therefore, I say, this contention that Ireland has nothing to do with Imperial expenditure, and that therefore all she contributes to it may be treated in the words of this paper as

"the amount that is swept into the British Treasury after all the costs of Government are discharged by the taxes wrung from the Irish people,"

is a contention that is as contrary to the facts as anything that can be stated in this House. I know that we are told that the division between Imperial and local expenditure in these Returns is not a fair one; I think the hon. Member for North Dublin used the term that the accounts were juggled; and it is suggested that probably they are most unfairly dealt with.

MR. CLANCY: I said I did not know anything about them.

*SIR M. HICKS BEACH: I think the hon. Member went rather further than that. But suppose you were to say—what hon. Members opposite have always asked for—that the cost of the Lord Lieutenant was a matter of Imperial, and not Irish, expenditure, although every colonial governor is paid by the colony. Suppose you were to say that half the cost of the Irish Constabulary was a matter of Imperial, and not Irish, expenditure. I suppose that even hon. Members will not contend that Ireland is so peaceful a country that she would be able to get along without any police at all. Even if you made these deductions the contribution of Ireland towards Imperial expenditure would not be anything like the one-twentieth part that was suggested by the Royal Commission.

But the main contention of this debate has been that it is not now a question of proportion, that it is a

question of power to bear the present taxation. It has been said that the population of Ireland is diminishing; that is unfortunately true; but I think the existing population is better able, so far as wealth goes, to bear taxation than they were when their numbers were greater. [Nationalist cries of "No."] If you look at the Returns, I think you will see that the evidence bears that out. You have a diminished population as compared with 1893–4, but that diminished population has £53,000,000 of deposits in the banks of all kinds, instead of £41,000,000 which existed then. The railway receipts improve, and there is a greater use of the facilities of the Post Office in the way of money orders, and correspondence; and the farming stock belonging to this diminished population is greater than it was when the population was larger. I am glad to say that the average annual emigration from Ireland in the twelve years ending 1901 was little more than half the average annual emigration in the preceding decade; and even the hon. Member for West Donegal admitted in his speech today that the Land Acts had done a great deal to improve the condition of the tenant farmer. These facts do not indicate a decrease of means on the part of the population of Ireland.

But it is contended that there has been a decrease in the yield of taxation in Ireland in these later years—that the income-tax, for example, has produced less for each penny in Ireland than it did some years ago, while it has produced more in Great Britain. It is quite true that for some years—after 1893—there was a falling off in the yield per penny of the income tax in Ireland. But why? Partly because of the purchase by tenants of estates which, when divided among small holders, paid no income tax, but had paid income tax when they belonged to single proprietors; but mainly because of the great extension of exemptions and abatements of the income tax made in the year 1894, and again by myself a few years later, which, of course, had much more effect on the yield of the income tax in a poor country like Ireland than on its yield in Great Britain. At present, I believe, that the yield per *ld.* of the income tax in

Ireland is about stationary. But I must say, with regard to this whole question of direct taxation, that whether you look to the low valuation on which the income tax is levied in Ireland, or to the fact that the class in Ireland which pays income tax is free from house duty, land tax, and assessed taxes, which are levied on precisely the same class in Great Britain, I do not think there is any fair ground for an Irish grievance in the matter of direct taxation. The grievance of indirect taxation has often been brought before this House, and the hon. Member for West Islington thinks he has proved that indirect taxes press more heavily on Ireland than they did by quoting the diminished yield of the taxes upon tea, tobacco, and spirits in the year 1901-02, as compared with the previous year. That is a perfect delusion on the part of the hon. Member. Undoubtedly there was a diminished yield under each of these heads, not only in Ireland, but in the whole of the United Kingdom, in the year 1901-02 as compared with the previous year; but why? For the simple reason that there was a forestalment of duty of no less than a million on tea, a million and a half on tobacco, and a very considerable sum on spirits in the year 1900-01, which duty properly belonged to the year 1901-02; but the actual consumption of tea very considerably increased in the year 1901-02, as compared with the previous year, while the consumption of tobacco and spirits, at any rate, showed no diminution. There is, I will venture to say, no proof whatever in the Returns of Irish taxation of the fact which the hon. Member appears to consider proved—that the diminution in the yield of these taxes in the year 1901-02 shows strained resources, or decreased consumption of these articles in Ireland.

I have never been able to see that the fact that high taxes are levied on such articles as alcohol and tobacco can be considered an Irish grievance. Nobody need consume these articles unless he chooses. When we come to taxes on tea, on sugar, and on corn, I admit that those taxes are in a different category. What did I do when, owing to an increase in our annual expenditure and to the cost of the war, I was compelled last

year, and this year, to impose increased indirect taxation on the whole of the United Kingdom—which increased taxation has been borne by Great Britain far more, proportionately, than by Ireland? I took very good care to impose last year, not only a tax on sugar but a tax on coal—not a penny of which touches Ireland at all, but of which a great industry in Great Britain has bitterly complained. And when in this House the case of Ireland, in regard to the tax on corn, was brought before us, as I think, in able and convincing speeches, I agreed—I was not forced—I agreed voluntarily to halve the tax on maize, because that was the article which is principally consumed in Ireland. That course was precisely in accordance with the spirit of the proviso as to exemptions and abatements in the Act of Union, as explained by Lord Castlereagh himself. Therefore, I think I may say that I have not shown myself insensible to the claims of the poorer classes of Ireland in this matter, and I am quite sure that that view will continue to be taken, by His Majesty's Government. It has been suggested today that something should be done in this way in the near future. Well, I hope that next year may see a considerable relief of taxation, instead of the increase of taxation to which we have been unfortunately accustomed in the past three years; and then I have not the least doubt that the position of the poorer taxpayers—not merely in Ireland, but in the whole of the United Kingdom—will be fairly taken into consideration by His Majesty's Government.

Then I come to the other suggestion that has been made—the suggestion of increased grants. The hon. Member for West Donegal said with truth that there were harrowing passages in the Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation as to the great burden of rates in the unions in the west of Ireland, and as to the condition of the poor in those parts of the country. The Royal Commission on Local Taxation made certain recommendations upon that matter, contingent, of course, upon similar action by Parliament with regard to the relief of local ratepayers in the rest of the United Kingdom. I have not the least doubt that when the time comes to deal

with the question of local taxation those recommendations also will be fairly considered by those who may have to deal with them. But this Motion today does not mean any policy of that kind. It does not mean, as was completely shown by the silence with which the suggestions of the hon. Member for Dundee were greeted—it does not mean any change in indirect taxation throughout the United Kingdom to the advantage of the poorer taxpayers of the whole kingdom. It means, if it means anything, a separate system of taxation for Ireland as compared with Great Britain; it means the establishment of Home Rule in the matter of financial relations. Well, that, to my mind, would be as disastrous to the finances of the United Kingdom, and to the prosperity of Ireland herself as the adoption of Home Rule in her political relations would be to the political future of these countries; and today I have only to repeat what I have said several times before, that to a Motion of this kind, which I can only interpret in that way, His Majesty's Government must offer their firmest resistance.

(4.45.) MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he was afraid that the speech which the right hon. Gentleman had just made, must be regarded as his "swan song" upon this Question. While regretting that what was probably the right hon. Gentleman's last speech on this subject as Chancellor of the Exchequer should be of a character so unsatisfactory to the representatives of the Irish people, he acknowledged that on many occasions he had met their demands, if not entirely as they would wish, yet in as large a degree as his political position allowed him. It was quite true that the right hon. Gentleman was not compelled to meet them upon the maize Question, but, after listening to the arguments addressed to him, the Chancellor of the Exchequer admitted the force of them, and was manly and frank enough to meet the views of the Irish people in this respect. Therefore, he had not regarded the right hon. Gentleman as being an opponent of Irish claims, and it was with some regret that they had heard that the right hon. Gentleman was not to occupy

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for any lengthened period that great position that he had held with so much distinction for so many years. He thought it only fair to offer those few remarks to the right hon. Gentleman, and he trusted that he would take them in the spirit in which they were uttered. The argument of the right hon. Gentleman that the reduction of the population of Ireland ought to be regarded as an increase of its financial prosperity was one which Irish Members found it difficult to listen to without impatience and even some indignation. The emigration from Ireland had been an emigration of the fittest, while the unfittest remained. The better half had gone away, the weaker half had remained. When they said that the population had been reduced by one-half they had not stated the whole evil, because it was the better half that had gone and the weaker half had stayed behind in the country. He should think that between 70 and 80 per cent. of the people who had gone away from Ireland were between the ages of twenty and thirty-five and were the very flower of the nation, and these men and women had themselves helped to build up the prosperity of other nations by stalwart Irish arms which ought to have been devoted to the development of their own land. The predictions made even in the British Parliament by Richard Brinsley Sheridan and others at the time of the Union had been fulfilled, that unless the financial arrangement were corrected it must lead to the greater impoverishment of the poorer country. A Member of Parliament named Johns in the year 1800 said the probabilities were that under this financial arrangement the National Debt of Ireland would rise, while the National Debt of England would descend, and it would be like two men on the road one ascending a hill and the other descending. Sheridan, once a distinguished Member of this House, opposed the Act of Union, and one of his main grounds and strongest arguments was that that would take place which hon. Members from Ireland now contended had taken place, namely, the financial destruction of the poorer country by the richer country.

He wondered how many hon. Members were aware that when the Act of Union was passed the population of Ireland was 5,000,000, and that of

England 10,000,000. When he heard the Chancellor of the Exchequer talk about the over representation of this House, he remembered that at the passing of the Act of Union Ireland was one-half of the entire population of these Islands, and they enjoyed only one-sixth of the representation in the English Parliament. Now, when English legislation had destroyed half the population, it was proposed to take advantage of that. In their hour of strength the people of Ireland got one-sixth of the representation in the British Parliament when they were entitled to one-third at least, if not to one-half, and now in Ireland's hour of weakness it was suggested that England should take advantage of her poverty and weakness to still further reduce her representation. The argument that no man paid for the same article one penny more of taxation in Ireland than in England was a real obstacle to a true understanding of this subject, but there never was a more fallacious argument. No man could contend that to have the same taxes in two countries meant equality of burden. Would a tax on salt be the same burden here as in India, or a tax on rice the same burden to our people as to the Chinese? Would an equal tax on coffee be an equal burden to France and to England, or would the same tax on tea be equally felt in this country, especially in Ireland, and in France. Although it was true that in Ireland nobody paid one penny more in taxation for the same commodity than was paid in England, that argument did not establish the proposition that the burden of Irish and English taxpayers was the same.

What was the reality of the whole business? It was that the burden of taxation was dependent upon the ability of the taxpayer to pay. It was quite true that the poor in England suffered under indirect taxation. He agreed that indirect taxation was a burden to the poor, and was felt by them more severely than by the rich. Could anybody argue that 6d. a pound on tea was the same burden to the gentleman living in Park Lane, as to the charwoman who eked out a miserable existence on poor wages derived from her badly paid

occupation. He would point out, however, that the poor people of this country paid a far smaller proportion than the people of Ireland. If the whole of England were as poor as St. Georges-in-the-East, as was the case in Ireland, they would very soon have to change their methods of taxation. The reason they could keep up the present system of taxation in England, was, because in this country poverty was exceptional, whereas in Ireland it was general. It was on the principle of invincible ignorance of the conditions of Ireland that the set off argument was brought forward. What was the set-off argument? It was that Ireland shared the services of the Navy and the Army. The Navy was not for the protection, but the subjugation of Ireland; the Army was not for the preservation and safeguarding, but for the subjugation and ruin of Ireland. The Government had a third and more effective line of defence in Ireland; they had bought up the intellect of Ireland.

COLONEL SAUNDERSON (Armagh, N.) asked why the hon. Member had gone to represent a Division of Liverpool.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that was a personal allusion. He hoped that, while representing a Division of Liverpool, he had devoted what intelligence he possessed to the benefit of the people of his country. Of all the results of the Union he knew no result that brought deeper pain or humiliation to Irishmen than the position of the Irish Bar today as compared with what it was in former days. In the days when no Catholic could sit in Parliament, there were Protestant barristers who fought for the liberties of Ireland. At that time there were none more patriotic than the Protestants of Ireland. The Union had been destructive of all classes. It had been destructive to the landlords of Ireland. The grandfather of the right hon. and gallant Member for North Armagh voted against the Union, and later on it would be remembered that the right hon. Gentleman made a great and unsuccessful struggle against the restoration of the Parliament which his grandfather endeavoured to preserve. Formerly there

was an aristocracy who lived in Ireland; they came over to England and most of them had gone into the Bankruptcy Court. There was corruption in every vein and artery of Irish Administration. The judges had salaries out of all proportion to the actual necessity. When a prominent English lawyer went on the Bench he made a financial sacrifice. It was different in Ireland, where the change meant on an average the doubling of an income. Yet it was money spent in that way the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarded as compensation for over taxation. He had heard of golden chains. This was the first time that golden chains paid out of the money of the prisoner were regarded as the alleviation of his toils. Another part of the set-off was the police. This argument was actually used while the rafters were still echoing the debate on Sergeant Sheridan. The argument was, "We charge you too much, but then we give you Sergeant Sheridan." Dealing with the Imperial argument, the hon. Member said he called himself an Imperialist, but he defined the word for himself. There were at present in this country honoured representatives of the British Colonies. What did the Colonies do in the way of taxation for Imperial purposes? The Chancellor of the Exchequer said the Navy was of great benefit to Ireland. Was it of no benefit to Canada or Australia? Australia was constantly confronted with the possibility of some enterprise on the part of a European power to take possession of islands in the Pacific which Australians thought ought to belong to them. The result was that nearly always some portions of the British Fleet were in Australian waters. Canada had a frontier running thousands of miles along another country which was friendly. Were the Army and Navy of no use to Canada? In Ireland they could get on very well without an English gun or regiment, yet the Colonies gave nothing practically, and Ireland was taxed to the death. There was the compensation, forsooth, that Ireland had representatives in Parliament, representatives who were out-voted in the proportion of four or five to one. He would make this concession to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Irish representation in this assembly was bad for

Mr. T. P. O'Connor.

Ireland, and not good for England. It was an Imperial injury as well as an Irish injury. The Irish Members had a right to intervene in debates and to vote on the greatest questions that came before Parliament. Their votes counted for more in Imperial than in Irish questions. He was a member of a Party that helped twice to change the Ministry of this country, and they might do so again. But at the very moment when by their votes in that House they made the Marquis of Salisbury Prime Minister and the present Chancellor of the Exchequer Chief Secretary for Ireland, when they gave the present Prime Minister his first chance in official life, they could not appoint a sub-constable or dismiss a Sergeant Sheridan. Give them Home Rule not merely in finance, but in politics, a properly paid judiciary that should be in accordance with the feelings and aspirations of the people, and the reduced police force which the country demanded, and there would be a real set-off between them and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The expenditure of the British Empire had extended to such proportions that it was a grave danger to the future of England, and a much greater danger to Ireland. That was the financial relation between the two countries. On the one hand there was a poor and small country with a dwindling population, and on the other a great Imperial nation, and the race between them down the road of expenditure was that of the earthen pot and the iron pot. In the recent war England had been able to get Irish soldiers to fight her battles, and some of them were now reading the eulogiums of English statesmen and at the same time eating porridge in the workhouse. It was rather too much that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should come and urge as an argument against the claim of Ireland that England had taken the blood of her sons and at the same time heaped taxes on her people.

(5.20.) MR. M'CANN (Dublin, St. Stephen's Green) said he wished to make a few observations of a general character. The average total income from taxes levied in Ireland during the last fifteen years of the Irish Parliament was about one and a half millions a year which was

expended—about £650,000 a year for the purposes of civil government, and £850,000 a year for the services of the debt, the military, and defence generally. Ireland contributed last year £12,570,000 from her taxes for the service of the debt, the army and navy. It would be seen that there was an increase of £1,720,000 for the cost of defensive purposes, and £6,564,000 increase in cost of civil government in Ireland. But to make the comparison fair between the two periods they must further add to the cost of civil government the amount collected in taxes by the County Councils, and add it to the £7,214,000 a year expended out of our taxes. Putting both together, they got a total of about £10,500,000 a year as the expenditure of the country from the taxation of the people of the country for the present cost of civil government in Ireland, as compared with £650,000 a year at the time this partnership was formed. The increase in the period for the purposes of civil government was therefore £9,850,000 a year. The question now arose, was the taxable capacity of the country better or worse now than at the time of the Union? He believed that the country's capacity to bear taxation was less now, much less, than at the period of the Union. Prices for all sorts of agricultural produce were then most remunerative—they all knew what they were—and they had then quite a number of small industries spread all over the country which gave much employment outside the land. These had all now practically disappeared. They had now practically as industries only the highly centralised manufacture of whisky and porter in Dublin, and linen and shipbuilding in Belfast. But then it might be said that these taxes calculated and applied towards civil government expenditure in Ireland, were spent in the country, and that, therefore, the country had the benefit of the expenditure. This was the usual argument, which meant—if it meant anything—that it was legitimate to extract taxes so largely from the producers, who were the chief payers of these taxes, for the purposes to which they were applied in Ireland in carrying on the civil government of the country. Had this expenditure, or any portion of it, the effect of keeping a single Irish boy or girl from emigrating, or of keeping a

pauper, indoor or outdoor, off the rates, or of permanently strengthening in any material way those who had not yet fled the country, or had not yet become chargeable on the rates? He could not see any portion of this huge taxation working in any of these desirable directions.

There was another point to which he wished to draw attention. The new duties imposed for the current year would probably come to £800,000, or £1,000,000 over last year's revenue. What was Ireland's ability to bear all these taxes? The Financial Relations Commission reported that she was then paying nearly £3,000,000 a year beyond her just contribution. During the eight years that passed since then, she had about £3,000,000 a year additional taxation imposed upon her which did not seem to be applicable to any purposes for her material improvement. He knew he would be met at once by the Irish prosperity mongers, who relied upon the bank deposits and current accounts in Irish banks as being a sufficient answer to all allegations as to the poverty and decadence of the country. He would shortly put the matter, and give an illustration. He was a member of a society recently formed in aid of the preservation of the Irish peasantry. He believed that the whole crux of the Irish economic position centred in the peasantry. This society had been at considerable pains to ascertain the facts and diagnose the position. They enumerated and located the peasants as those who tilled the land by their own labour and the labour of their families, and those who worked on the land for hire. They believed that this class worked out nearly, if not quite, half the entire population. There were 400,000 peasant holdings in Ireland, valued for taxation purposes from a little over £20 a year, and coming down to £1 a year. The average rent paid by these peasant farmers was, as near as they could make it, about £7 to £8. The average income of these people, derivable from their farms, could not be more than £25 after rent and taxes were paid. Allowing five to a family, this did not come to more than £5 a head

to live on. This income was only attainable in good years. When the rainy day came round in Ireland, and the potatoes rotted and the turf would not dry, the majority of these people were starving, or next door to it. Let them see what was the yearly contribution of these peasants under the present system of taxation, Imperial and local. They had taken much trouble to ascertain this taxation in various districts of the country, and had struck an average, and had come to the conclusion, from the best data which they could obtain, that they contributed 30s. a head each to Imperial and local taxation. This calculation was made before the recent tax was put upon their food—flour and yellow meal. It came to this, that these 400,000 holdings, containing four to five people in each, worked out to nearly 2,000,000 of people who contributed 30s. a head, or £3,000,000 sterling, a year to Imperial and local taxation. That was, on an income of £6 10s. a year 30s. was paid for taxation purposes. Another question arose in this connection, which was this—To what extent was this peasant benefited in any material way by the payment of this 30s.

out of a yearly income of £6 10s? Was anything done with this money to in any way raise his poor standard of living, and to enable him to put by something for the rainy day? The point he was coming to was his—these non-economic taxes, when collected, found their way to the credit sides of ledgers in banks worked through credit balances when distributed in the various directions for which the taxes were collected, and went to swell the deposits. So the result of their Society's investigations so far was this—that round about £3,000,000 in non-economic taxes, and perhaps as much more in non-economic rents, were extracted annually from the peasantry, and went to swell the deposits in Irish banks. So that, in fact, the bank deposit test was most fallacious, and rightly viewed as he put it, it was a measure of the poverty and wretchedness of the people, and not at all of their prosperity. The deposits were not the peasants' deposits, but of others who were in receipt of the peasants' taxes.

(5.27.) Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 117 ; Noes, 168. (Division List No. 316.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caine, William Sproston
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal

Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Emmott, Alfred
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Grant, Corrie
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)

Mr. McCann.

Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leish, Sir Joseph
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Cann, James
M'Kean, John
Minch, Matthew
Mooney, John J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K'ndal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John

Russell, T. W.
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Sullivan, Donal
Thompson, Dr. EC (Monagh'n, N)
Tully, Jasper
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilson, Chas. Henry (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Thomas Esmonde and
Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, T. Gibson (King's Lynn)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
Bullard, Sir Harry
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Ceil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Cranborne, Viscount
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.

Davenport, William Bromley
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower H'mlets)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fr'd Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'm'l'ts)
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry SEdm'nds)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. L'rd G. (Midd'x)
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Higginbottom, S. W.
Houlst, Joseph
Howard, Jno. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Knowles, Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)

Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Macarney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Col. J. (Antrim, E.)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow)
Morgan, Hn. Fred. (Monm'thsh.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Penn, John
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)

Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Robinson, Brooke
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Royds, Clement Molyneux
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Linehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Shaw-Stewart, M. H. (Renfrew)
 Sinclair, Louis (Romford)

Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Valentia, Viscount
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Powell (Birm.)

Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

FRANCHISE AND REMOVAL OF WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and
 discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

SHOPS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and
 discharged.

Bill withdrawn.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to: New Forest
 (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes) Bill,
 Commons Regulation (Sodbury) Provi-
 sional Order Bill, without Amend-
 ment—

Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways
 Bill, London, Tilbury, and Southend
 Railway Bill, Whitechapel and Bow
 Railway Bill, Metropolitan District
 Railway Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled,
 "An Act to confirm a Provisional Order
 under The Private Legislation Procedure
 (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to
 Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways."
 [Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways
 (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill
 [Lords.]

GREENOCK AND PORT GLASGOW TRAM- WAYS (EXTENSION) ORDER CON- FIRMATION BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a
 second time upon Monday, 4th August,
 and to be printed. [Bill 287.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Fifth Report, with Minutes of Evidence,
 brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to
 be printed. [No. 296.]

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Sixth Report, with Minutes of Evidence,
 brought up, and read.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be
 printed. [No. 297.]

GREAT NORTHERN AND CITY RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Report
 to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they request that this House
 will be pleased to communicate to their
 Lordships copies of the Reports from the
 Select Committees appointed by this
 House in the present session of Parlia-
 ment on:—1, Public Accounts; 2, Sav-
 ings Banks Funds; 3, Steamship Sub-
 sidies; 4, Private Business; 5, National
 Expenditure; together with the Pro-
 ceedings of the Committees and Minutes
 of Evidence.

Copies of the Reports, &c., to be com-
 municated.

Adjourned at twenty minutes
 before Six o'clock till Monday
 next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, July 28th, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL
ORDERS (No. 7) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order).

Amendments agreed to.

Amendment moved—

“After sub-clause (5.) to insert the following new sub-clause:—“(6.) The corporation shall within five years from the commencement of the said Order, establish within the Garston District a public library and public baths.”—*(Earl Waldegrave.)*

LORD NEWTON: This Amendment seems to me a very important one. It involves an interference with municipal local autonomy, and I think the House is entitled to some explanation before accepting it.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Duke of Devonshire): I regret that the noble Lord in charge of the Bill is not present today, and that we can give no information. The explanation which the noble Lord desires will, however, be given on the Report Stage.

LORD NEWTON: I hope the explanation will be forthcoming at the next stage, but I cannot help expressing the opinion that this is an extremely slovenly way of conducting business. If a noble Lord undertakes to look after anything so vulgar and commonplace as the Local Government Board, he should either be in his place to explain his Amendments, or depute some other member of the Government who would condescend to come here and make the explanation for him.

EARL WALDEGRAVE: The noble Lord who represents the Local Government Board in this House is, I am sorry to say, unwell. I may point out, however, that the Amendment has been agreed to by the opponents of the Bill.

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[FOURTH SERIES.]

LORD NEWTON: Unless the Government give me an assurance that an explanation will be forthcoming at the next stage, I shall move the adjournment.

EARL SPENCER: I do think that if the noble Lord who represents the Local Government Board is ill, some one should be entrusted with these Amendments who is able to explain them. It is derogatory to the dignity of this House that no one is able to explain an Amendment of this kind when it is moved.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The explanation shall be given on the Report stage.

Amendment agreed to ; Standing Committee negatived ; Report of Amendments to be received Tomorrow.

LONDON UNITED TRAMWAYS BILL.

The King's consent signified ; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

FELIXSTOWE AND WALTON IMPROVEMENT BILL [H.L.].

Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL.

Read 3^a and passed.

GARSTON AND DISTRICT TRAMWAYS AND ELECTRIC SUPPLY (TRANSFER) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

HULL, BARNSELY, AND WEST RIDING JUNCTION RAILWAY AND DOCK (SOUTH YORKSHIRE EXTENSION LINES) BILL.

Read 3^a, with the Amendments ; further Amendments made ; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

WEARDALE AND SHILDON DISTRICT WATER BILL [H.L.].

Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 4) BILL.**CITY OF LONDON (SPITALFIELDS MARKET) BILL,****WEST HAM CORPORATION BILL,****NEWPORT CORPORATION BILL,****NORTH-EASTERN RAILWAY BILL,****LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY BILL,****NORTH METROPOLITAN TRAMWAYS BILL,****CROYDON AND DISTRICT ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS BILL,****METROPOLITAN RAILWAY BILL,****LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL.**

Returned from the Commons with the Amendments agreed to.

RICHMOND HILL (PRESERVATION OF VIEW) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments.

LONDON AND INDIA DOCKS (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 3) BILL,**LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 12) BILL.**

House in Committee (according to order). Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived; Report of Amendments to be received tomorrow.

PIER AND HARBOUR PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.Read 3^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (No. 163),**SAVINGS BANKS FUNDS (No. 164),****STEAMSHIP SUBSIDIES (No. 165),****PRIVATE BUSINESS (No. 166),****NATIONAL EXPENDITURE (No. 167).**

Reports, etc., of the Select Committees of the House of Commons, communicated (pursuant to Message of Friday last), and to be printed.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).**Fifty-seventh annual Report of the Commissioners.****RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.**

General Report to the Board of Trade upon the accidents that have occurred on the railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1901.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of visits made and the number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended 30th June, 1902.

SUPERANNUATION.

Return for the year ended 31st March, 1902, of the Army and Navy officers permitted, under Rule 2 of the regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Superannuation Act, 1877, to hold civil employment of profit under public Departments.

ASSIZES ACTS, 1876 to 1879.

Order in Council of 26th July, 1902, directing that the town of Cardiff shall, for the summer assizes, 1902, be the place where assizes are holden in and for the county of Glamorgan.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, for the year ended 31st December, 1901, together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported, without Amendment; Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a tomorrow.

LICENSING BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order).

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: My Lords, I desire to call attention to Clause 5, as amended in Committee, which provides that, instead of an order in pursuance of paragraph (a)—*i.e.*, that the applicant should be no longer bound to cohabit with his wife—the Court may, with the consent of the wife, order her to be committed to and detained in an inebriates' home. It does appear to me to be common sense that this should be done with the consent of the husband. This is a grave matter, reaching down to the very roots of domestic life; and it seems to me your Lordships ought to consider carefully before you insert such a provision without the safeguard I have suggested. It is impossible to imagine a greater curse than a drunken wife, and the Clause is apparently meant to give the husband relief from the curse. I do not speak as an expert, but the common notion is that intemperance in a woman, when once it has taken a hold of her, is an incurable disease. Instead, however, of giving permanent relief to the husband from this hideous companionship, the section merely gives him temporary relief by relegating the wife to an inebriates' asylum, from which she may emerge at any moment, only partially or temporarily cured, and go back to her home and family. Does it seem, under these circumstances, too much to ask that the consent of the husband should be added to that of the wife in connection with the order?

LORD BELPER: I will take care that what the noble Earl has said shall be brought before the Home Secretary, and the point will be considered. I would point out, however, that the proviso was inserted for the purpose of allowing time to elapse, if the married woman consented, before a decree of judicial separation was issued. It is not for the purpose of taking the place of the separation order, but rather a step to see what can be done to prevent a home from being broken up. It may be that after a year or two in an inebriates' reformatory the woman may be cured, and then, of course, the husband may be able to live with her again.

I do not know if it will meet the view of the noble Lord, but I have an Amendment to propose giving the Court power, where a woman gives her consent, to remove her to a retreat.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): I think the objection made by the noble Earl is not an unreasonable one. Of course, where the application is made on behalf of the husband as against the wife, the magistrate must hear the husband's views. He may then make one of several orders set out in the Clause, and if it appeared evident that the wife was such a habitual drunkard that the domestic home could not continue, the magistrate would be entitled to make a separation order. The policy of the section is to leave it free to the magistrate to make such order as he thinks appropriate to the occasion. Inasmuch as the application has to be made by the husband, it seems to me that, though not removing the objection of the noble Earl, it considerably mitigates it.

THE EARL OF ROSEBERY: I want to make my meaning clear. I cannot quite understand that the noble Lord is justified in saying that this section is only to form part of the general enactment provided in the earlier part of the Bill. I do not think that anything the noble and learned Earl has said would conflict with the words I should like to see introduced. What the noble and learned Earl has said is entitled to the greatest respect, and I do not wish for a moment to put my judgment against his in such a matter. But it seems to me to give an option—an absolute option—to the magistrate or judge making an order; and I want that option to be made after the statement of the husband and with the consent of the husband. I do not think that anything in the words suggested by the Home Office conflicts with that view, because if the words "of the husband and" were inserted it would make the point more clear, and would guard against the danger which I think is apparent.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: I think there are serious consequences attaching to the suggestion of the noble Earl. He is making the husband judge in this matter. It is very often a contest between the husband and the wife; and

instead of a discretion being exercised whether or not there should be a separation or whether the wife should be sent to a retreat, the noble Earl suggests that the husband should be predominant in the question, and should be able to say, "Without my consent my wife shall not go to a house of retreat." This power may be exercised under a feeling of hostility, and may be most injurious to the interests of the wife. If there is to be this separation it is alone just towards the husband, but it places the wife in a sad position. She becomes an outcast in the world. Who is to look after her future? Her life must become that of an outcast; and in order to prevent this result, this proviso has been introduced.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: I would point out to the noble and learned Lord that the suggestion no more makes the man a judge in the matter than he is in the earlier part of the Clause, because, after all, the whole effect of the Clause hinges on the application of the husband, and I am anxious only to put him in the same position with regard to this last sub-section as he is in the first. The noble and learned Lord the Chancellor of the Duchy expressed his sympathy for the drunken wife. I am certainly sorry for the wife, but I am more sorry for the husband. Let the wife, if necessary, remain in the inebriates' retreat; she has broken up the home: it is she who should pay the penalty—not the husband.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Sub-section 2 deals with the habitual drunken wife. I should like to ask why there is no similar proviso with regard to sub-section 1, which deals with the habitual drunken husband.

LORD BELPER: I think the answer is that the wife and husband are in a somewhat different position, and it is not necessary in the case of the husband, while it may be desirable in the case of the wife. The point has not been raised before, and I will inquire into it.

Formal Amendment, giving the Court power to remove a woman, with her consent, to a retreat, agreed to.

THE EARL OF ROSEBURY: I understand the noble Lord will pay attention
Lord James of Hereford.

to the suggestion I have made between this and the Third Reading stage?

LORD BELPER: Certainly.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: Perhaps the noble Lord will look at sub-section 1 at the same time?

LORD BELPER: Certainly.

LORD BURGHCLERE: I desire to put a question on Clause 25, on the section which was added in the Standing Committee with regard to certain privileges to be given to clubs at Oxford. Will the clubs at Cambridge enjoy the same privileges?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I have made inquiries of the University of Cambridge as to whether they desire a similar Amendment to be inserted applying to that university. I find that they have no such desire, it being the policy of the University of Cambridge to allow the privileges to lapse.

Bill to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES (IRELAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment; and recommitted to the Standing Committee.

EDUCATION ACT, 1901, RENEWAL BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF NORTHBROOK: The object of this Bill is to extend the "Cockerton" Act, making legal the instruction in evening continuation schools for a further period of twelve months. It is a Bill of only one Clause, and it passed without opposition through the other House.

"Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a."
—(*The Earl of Northbrook.*)

EARL SPENCER: I do not rise to oppose the Second Reading; it is essential that the Bill should be passed. But an assurance has been given in the other House on the part of the Government that where a school in a particular locality is transferred to a neighbouring

locality this will be allowed. I understand, however, that when the Bill came to be examined it was found that there was no real power to do so, and I am anxious to hear that there is no intention to diminish the influence of the schools stopped by the Cockerton judgment, and that there will not be a deliberate interference with those schools in the event of their being carried on in another place.

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: I was not aware that any such assurance as the noble Earl refers to was given in another place last year. But it certainly is the fact, as the noble Earl has suggested, that the Act of last year has been administered in practice with considerable strictness by the Education Department, and it is not their intention during the next year to administer it with any unnecessary strictness. The reasons which made the Board administer the Act with some degree of strictness have entirely disappeared, and we believe that there will not be the slightest difficulty in enabling a school which is substantially the same school, but which may for reasons of convenience be transferred to another locality, to receive the grant and to continue its operation under the Act. That is the intention, not only of the Education Department, but also of the Local Government Board; and I am able to give the noble Earl the fullest assurance that it is the intention of these two Departments to administer the Act in the most liberal spirit possible.

EARL SPENCER: I suppose the noble Duke will not be willing to introduce an Amendment to carry out that intention?

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE: The noble Earl must be perfectly aware that, in the present condition of business, it would be very dangerous to send the Bill back to another place with any Amendments in it.

On Question, agreed to. Bill read 2^a accordingly; Committee negatived. Then Standing Orders Nos. xxxix. and xlv. considered (according to order) and dispensed with. Bill read 3^a, and passed.

LIGHT LOAD LINE.

Moved That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire and report—

I. Whether, and, if so, to what extent, British ships are sent to sea in an unseaworthy condition by reason of their being insufficiently or improperly ballasted;

II. Whether any Amendment or amplification of the present law is desirable in connection therewith;

III. If so, to what extent any such alteration of the law could be made equally applicable to foreign vessels.—
(*The Earl of Dudley*).

Agreed to; and ordered accordingly.

House adjourned at five minutes
past Five o'clock till to-
morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 28th July, 1902.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

**COLWYN BAY AND COLWYN URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL BILL,
FINCHLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
BILL.**

Lords Amendments considered, and
agreed to.

LEICESTER CORPORATION BILL
[LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

**NORTH AND SOUTH SHIELDS ELECTRIC
RAILWAY BILL [LORDS] (KING'S CON-
SENT SIGNIFIED).**

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

**ROSSENDALE VALLEY TRAMWAYS
BILL [LORDS],**

WREXHAM DISTRICT TRAMWAYS BILL
[LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, with
Amendments.

**MENAI BRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL BILL [LORDS].**

As amended, considered; Amendments
made, Bill to be read the third time.

WHITSTABLE IMPROVEMENT BILL
[LORDS] (BY ORDER).

As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

TRAMWAYS ORDERS CONFIRMATION
(No. 1) BILL [LORDS].

Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 1 AND No. 3) BILL [LORDS] AND CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY (No. 2) BILL [LORDS], CONSOLIDATED INTO "CHARING CROSS, EUSTON, AND HAMPSTEAD RAILWAY BILL [LORDS]."

Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 12).

Sir LEWIS M'IVER reported from the Committee on Group 12 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday next, at half-past eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION (LONDON) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered tomorrow.

YSTRADFELLTE WATER BILL [LORDS].

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

NORTH-WEST LONDON RAILWAY BILL [LORDS].

SADDLEWORTH AND SPRINGHEAD TRAMWAYS BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Clay Cross Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to—Consett Water Bill [Lords], Rhondda Urban District Council Tramways Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Eccles against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions for alteration: From Leicester; and Standish; to lie upon the Table.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (SCHOOL ATTENDANCE).

Petition from Bradford, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

PLUMBERS' REGISTRATION BILL.

Petitions in favour: From Ripon; Coleraine; and Carmarthen; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (FOREIGN COMPETITION, LOCOMOTIVES).

Return [presented 25th July] to be printed. [No. 298.]

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (GENERAL REPORT).

Copy presented, of General Report to the Board of Trade upon the Accidents that have occurred on the Railways of the United Kingdom during the year 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SOUTH AFRICA (DESPATCHES).

Copy presented, of Despatch by General Lord Kitchener, dated 23rd June, 1902, relative to military operations in South Africa [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ASSIZES ACTS, 1876 TO 1879.

Copy presented, of Order in Council, dated 26th July, 1902, directing that the Town of Cardiff shall, for the Summer Assizes, 1902, be the place where Assizes are holden in and for the County of Glamorgan [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Return for the year ended 31st March 1902 of the Army and Navy Officers permitted, under Rule 2 of the Regulations drawn up under Section 6 of the Act, to hold Civil Employment of profit under Public Departments [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 299.]

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 1898 AND 1901.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 23rd June; *Mr. Lough*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 300.]

LONDON (EQUALISATION OF RATES) ACT, 1894 (ACCOUNTS UNDER SECTION 1 (7) OF THE ACT).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 21st July: *Mr. Grant[?] Lawson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 301.]

EVICTIONS (IRELAND.)

Copy presented, of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th June 1902 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND.)

Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure for 1901, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 302.]

TECHNICAL EDUCATION (APPLICATION OF FUNDS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return ordered, "showing the extent to which, and the manner in which, Local Authorities in England and Wales have applied Funds to the purposes of Technical Education (including Science, Art, Technical, and Manual Instruction) during the year 1901-2 under the

following Acts: Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890; Technical Instruction Acts, 1889 and 1891; Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889; and Public Libraries and Museums Acts."—(*Sir John Gorst.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

India—Re-armament of Native Army

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty). To ask the Secretary of state for India, seeing that the Government of India have earmarked for the current financial year a sum of £327,000 for the purpose of continuing the programme of re-armament of the Native Army of India, will he state by what date the entire Native Army is expected to be re-armed.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) It is hoped that the re-armament of the Native Army may be completed in the course of next financial year.

Military Factories to render India self-supporting in War Material.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state the names of the factories in India which are at present engaged in the manufacture of war material with a view to render India independent of Great Britain for war-like stores; and will he say how many Europeans and how many natives of India are employed in these factories.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The names of the factories for which the hon. Member asks are as follow:—Foundry and Shell Factory, Cossipore; Ammunition Factory, Dum Dum; Ammunition Factory, Kirkee; Gun Carriage Factory, Fatehgarh; Gun Carriage Factory, Bombay; Gun Carriage Factory, Madras; Harness and Saddlery Factory, Cawnpore; Harness and Saddlery Workshops, Madras; Proof Department, Balasore; Boot Factory, Cawnpore; Clothing Agency, Calcutta; Clothing Agency, Madras. I am unable to state the number of Europeans and natives employed in these factories.

Darjeeling Municipal Council.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, seeing that the meetings of Municipal Council of Darjeeling are frequently postponed for want of a quorum, will he consider the expediency of suggesting to the Government of Bengal the desirability of devising some better system of representation than that which at present prevails.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) I must refer the hon. Member to the answer given to his Question on the same subject on 13th of May, in which I stated that the matter was one for the decision of the Government of Bengal, and that I did not propose to interfere with their discretion.

Salt Supply to Khairpur.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state at what price salt is supplied by the Government of India to the native State of Khairpur, and at what price it is resold to the subjects of that State.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) Under a special agreement with the State of Khairpur, a quantity of salt, sufficient for the consumption of its population, is supplied free of duty to the State at the cost of manufacture and transport, I believe about nine annas per maund; and the State retails the salt at a price fixed by itself, which, however, must not be lower than that prevailing in the adjoining British district. I understand that the price charged at present is 3 rupees 12 annas per maund.

**Coronation—India Office Reception—
Charge on Indian Revenues.**

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will give the details of the expenditure of £7,000, stated to have been incurred from the revenues of India, in connection with the reception held at the India Office on 4th July.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) I have not all the details of the expenditure complete, but, as the contracts made were few, there will be no difficulty in giving the information the hon. Member asks for.

MR. LABOUCHERE: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether, seeing that the auditor of the accounts of the Secretary of State in Council is empowered by Statute to examine and audit the accounts, he is empowered to examine for this purpose officers and servants of the India Office establishment, and to summon before him any such officer and servant, and that he is required to report on such accounts, and to note any case in which money arising out of the revenues of India has been appropriated to other purposes than those to which they are applicable under Statute; will he state when the auditor's remarks upon the expenditure connected with the India Office reception of 4th July will be laid before Parliament.

(Answered by Secretary Lord George Hamilton.) The Report of the auditor on the accounts for the year 1902–3, which will include the expenditure connected with the State Ceremonial of the 4th of July, 1902, will be laid before Parliament, in accordance with the provisions of the 52nd and 53rd sections of the Act for the Better Government of India (21 and 22 Vic., c. 106), within the first fourteen days during which Parliament may be sitting after the 1st day of May, 1904.

Glasgow Tramways—Lifeguard.

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, in view of the Report of the Board of Trade Inspector on the V-shaped wooden plough lifeguard, with which some of the tramcars of the Glasgow Corporation are fitted, whether he will consider the expediency of recommending the Glasgow Corporation to discontinue the use of this lifeguard.

(Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.) Such a recommendation has already been made to the Corporation.

**Dingwall and Cromarty Light Railway
Order.**

MR. WEIR: To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what progress has been made with the proposed scheme for the construction of a light railway between Dingwall and Cromarty.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Light Railway Order to authorise the scheme in question will, it is expected, be ready very shortly for confirmation by the Board of Trade. Some matters of drafting are all that remain to be settled.

Return of Fleets.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when the Return of Fleets is likely to be in the hands of Members.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) I fear that I cannot promise that this Return will be in the hands of Members before the House rises, but every effort is being made to complete it by the earliest possible date.

H.M.S. "London."

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the nature of the breakdown of the machinery of H.M. battleship "London," and how long she is likely to be under repairs at Malta.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) It has been found that the condenser glands and ferrules of H.M.S. "London" require repacking and tightening. The work will occupy about fifteen days.

Coronation Naval Review.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether arrangements have been made for inviting Members of Parliament, Colonial Premiers, or other guests of the State now in this country, to attend the forthcoming Naval Review; and, if so, whether he will state what facilities for the inspection of the Fleet will be afforded to those invited, and whether the tickets issued for the Coronation Review, fixed for the 28th of June, will hold good for the forthcoming review.

(*Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.*) If it appears that a considerable number of Members desire to attend the Review, the Admiralty will endeavour to provide the necessary facilities. A book has been placed in Mr. Speaker's office, in which

Members proposing to attend the Review are invited to write their names. Two tickets will be issued to each Member, one of them being for the personal use of the Member of Parliament to whom it is issued. Tickets issued for the 28th June will not hold good for the coming Review, as the arrangements will be different in many respects to those made on the earlier occasion. The Admiralty are taking steps to meet the views of Colonial Office and Foreign Office respectively, with regard to the guests of the State and the Colonial Premiers now in this country.

North Western District Post Office— Retirement of Mr. Stump.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, if he will state what are the special qualifications which necessitate the retention of the inspector, Mr. E. Stump, at the North Western District Office, after attaining the age of sixty, and if he can give the probable date of this officer's retirement.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Mr. Stump is a thoroughly efficient officer and one of the best in his district. In these circumstances the Postmaster General sees no reason to call upon him to retire at present.

Killorbee (Longford) Postal Arrangements.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether any complaints have been received from the Killorbee, County Longford, postal district as to the delivery of letters in that district; whether, seeing that residents in the village get their letters at 8 a.m., persons residing not in the village but in the townland on which it stands have to wait till 12 noon, an arrangement can be made to include all in the one delivery.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) It does not appear that any complaints have reached London respecting the arrangements for the delivery of letters in the Killorbee postal district, County Longford, but inquiry will be made on

the subject, and the result will be communicated to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

Kenmare (Kerry) Marine Works.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether, in view of the fact that the Congested Districts Board has stated that it has no funds at its disposal to effect improvements in the harbour accommodation at Kenmare, County Kerry, he will consider the claims of that port for assistance when the funds available under the Marine Works (Ireland) Bill are allocated; (2) can he state whether any, and, if so, what, money at the disposal of the Congested Districts Board since its inception has been spent on marine works at Kenmare; (3) and will he give the Report of the surveyor or engineer employed by the Congested Districts Board to report on the existing state of the pier and harbour accommodation.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) The claims of this harbour will be considered with those of others. No money has been expended by the Congested Districts Board on marine works at Kenmare. The Report referred to at the conclusion of the Question is a confidential document, which it would be contrary to practice to publish.

King's Scholars Examinations.

MR. BOLAND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he will state the date or dates on which the King's Scholars Examination, or the entrance examination for admission into training colleges was held in England and Wales in 1900, 1901, and 1902; the date on which the results of this examination were made known to the candidates and to the training college authorities; the date or dates on which the examination for teachers' certificates, and the examination for King's Scholars at the end of their course of training was held in England and Wales in 1899, 1900, and 1901; the date on which the results of this examination were made known to the candidates and to the training college authorities; the date or dates on which the examination for

monitors at the end of their periods of service, and for candidates for entrance to training colleges, was held in Ireland in 1900, 1901, and 1902; the date on which the results of this examination were made known to the candidates and to the training college authorities; the date or dates on which the Examination of King's Scholars at the end of their course of training was held in Ireland in 1899, 1900, and 1901; and the date on which the results of this examination were made known to the candidates and to the training college authorities.

(Answered by Mr. Wyndham.) I have no information in respect to the first part of the Question. The examinations of monitors in Irish national schools, at the termination of their periods of service, and of candidates for entrance to Irish training colleges, were held in Easter week in the years 1900, 1901, and 1902. The results of these Examinations were advised to the authorities of the training colleges in 1900 and 1901 on the 31st July, and the Commissioners hope that the advices of the results of this year's examination will be ready before the close of the current month. A detailed statement of marks is sent to each candidate at or about the same time that the results are notified to the training colleges. The examinations of King's scholars in Irish training colleges were held in the first week of July in each of the years mentioned. The results of these examinations were notified to the authorities of the training colleges on the 31st August 1899, 10th September 1900, and 5th October 1901. The details of answering were sent to each King's scholar on 31st August, 27th September, and 31st October in the three years, respectively.

Irish Intermediate Education—Science Syllabus.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland on what ground have the Professors of Chemistry and Physics of the Royal College of Science for Ireland not been consulted in the framing of the Science Syllabus adopted by the Board of Intermediate Education

as framed by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Education. And whether he will now ascertain the views of the Professors of Chemistry and Physics in the College of Science with reference to the merits and educational value of the Science Syllabus.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) It has already been stated that the Science Syllabus was framed by the new Department upon the advice of its own educational experts. The two Professors of Physics and Chemistry at the Royal College of Science were not consulted in the matter, it not being considered necessary to do so. One of them gave a course of instruction to teachers in secondary schools in order to prepare them to introduce the syllabus into their schools. At the close of the course of instruction his observations on the syllabus were invited, in common with those of various other professors who conducted similar courses, and such observations will be duly considered by the Department. The second professor referred to in the Question declined to conduct a similar course of instruction, on the ground that he had no desire to undertake extra work at the close of a long session.

Magheralough (Tyrone) Roads.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists at the delay in carrying out the proposal of the Tyrone County Council to widen a road in the townland of Magheralough, in the rural district of Tullick; and, seeing that an order for the acquisition of the land necessary was given by the Judge of Assize in July 1901, but the appointment of an arbitrator was made only last month, will he explain the cause of this delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The order of the Judge of Assize was not sent to the Local Government Board until January last. The maps and schedules were not furnished until April. The schedules were then found to differ from those attached to the Judge's order, and, further correspondence becoming

necessary, the Board was not in a position to appoint an arbitrator until the 5th June.

Kinwara (Galway) Harbour.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he received a copy of a resolution passed at a public meeting in Kinwara, county Galway, in reference to the condition of Kinwara Harbour; and, seeing that vessels are obliged to anchor far out in the harbour on account of the condition of the pier, whether it is proposed to include Kinwara Harbour amongst the places to be scheduled under the Marine Works (Ireland) Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Wyndham.*) The resolution has been received. As already stated, I cannot, at the present stage, indicate the particular works of this description to which the Bill, should it become law, will apply.

Army—Reserve Officers' Promotion.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the delay experienced by the reserve of officers in regard to the question of promotion, he can now fix a definite date when promotion shall be given.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The names will be announced shortly.

South African War—Imperial Yeomanry—Medals.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the decision come to by the War Office that troops landing in South Africa after the 31st May would not be entitled to receive either medals or gratuity refers to the Yeomanry raised under the Special Army Order of the 9th of January; and, if so, whether exception can be made in their case, seeing that they were detained for four months at Aldershot instead of two months, as originally arranged.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Imperial Yeomanry enlisted for service in South Africa do not differ in this respect from the Regular Forces, and will be treated in accordance with

the terms of special Army Order of 4th June. The detention at Aldershot was due to the necessity of securing proper training before proceeding to South Africa, and does not appear to justify any distinction being made between these men and those in the Regular Forces who arrived in South Africa subsequently to the date in question.

Transport—Conveyance of Government Stores to South Africa.

MR. LABOUCHERE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state the system adopted by the War Office in arranging freight for the conveyance of Government stores and material to South Africa; whether the War Office acts through the Admiralty; if so, whether the Admiralty books directly with the steam ship lines, or through a broker or agent; whether, if so, the broker or agent invites tenders from all sources, and accepts the lowest tender.

(Answered by Mr. Arnold-Forster.) The arrangements for the conveyance of Government stores to South Africa or elsewhere are made by the Admiralty, who employ for this purpose a shipping agent under the direction of the Director of Transports. Tenders are invited by advertising the Government requirements at the Shipping Exchange, the office of the Admiralty agent, and at the Baltic when necessary, and the offer which is considered most advantageous is accepted.

Medals for Army and Volunteer Nurses.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether any reward or distinction, other than the South African war medal, has been given to any of the nurses who served in South Africa; if so, whether such reward has been conferred upon Army nurses only or upon volunteers also; and if any difference has been made in the treatment of these classes of nurses, what are the grounds upon which this has been done.

(Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.) The decoration of the Royal Red Cross has been awarded to certain Army and Volunteer Nurses who were officially

recognised. Distinctions of various grades have also been awarded by the Grand Prior of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem on the recommendation of the War Office to Nurses and Volunteers officially recognised.

(2.15.) QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

South Africa—Lord Milner and the Cape Constitution.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to a public statement made by Sir Gordon Sprigg on the 6th instant with reference to Lord Milner's views upon the suspension of the Cape Constitution, that Lord Milner has no jurisdiction in the Cape, that he is High Commissioner, that his duties are entirely outside the Cape, and that the Governor of the Colony represents the Crown; and will he state whether the High Commissioner has any, and, if so, what, duties in relation to Cape Colony; and, if not, whether he has made any communication to Lord Milner on the subject.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (MR. BRODRICK (Surrey, Guildford)—(for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): I have seen the statement referred to, which appears to be correct, but I am not aware that Lord Milner has claimed any jurisdiction within the Cape Colony, and I have not thought it necessary to take any action in the matter.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS asked whether Lord Milner did not communicate his views on the suspension of the Cape Constitution.

MR. BRODRICK: No, Sir.

MR. FLYNN (Cork Co., N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Lord Milner advised a deputation of the South African League to bring pressure to bear on the Imperial Government?

Lendy Estate, Rhodesia.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the assets of the estate of the late James Murray, *alias*

M'Gowan, *alias* M'Gavan, arising out of his share of the Lendy Estate, have yet been realised by the executor dative, the Secretary of the Salisbury Board of Executors in Rhodesia, South Africa; and, if not, seeing that this man's parents are living in destitution in Longford, he will direct an inquiry to be made to ascertain the cause of the delay.

MR. BRODRICK—(for Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN): I understand that the answer is in the negative. I will cause inquiry to be made through the High Commissioner, but I believe the fact to be that the Lendy property, consisting of ten farms, could not be realised some twelve months ago owing to the fact that several of the co-owners could not be found, and that consequently transfer could not be effected.

2nd Life Guards—Officers' Horse-Play.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a second lieutenant of the Second Life Guards was roughly handled by certain of the officers of that regiment, and his quarters damaged by them; whether he can inform the House of the reason of this attack; and if an inquiry into the matter has been, or, if not, will be, instituted, and the implicated persons punished.

MAJOR RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers, may I ask whether, in his opinion, this alleged outrage has not been grossly exaggerated both in the Question and in the Press.

MR. BRODRICK: The answer to both Questions is that the case is being investigated by a Board of officers.

Sandhurst College—Incendiary Fires and Disturbances—Indiscriminate punishment of Cadets.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is yet in a position to make any statement in regard to the Sandhurst incident and the investigations of the Commander-in-Chief.

MR. BRODRICK: The Commander-in-Chief has completed his inquiry into the Sandhurst incident, and the additional evidence which has come to light

has made it possible for him to exonerate all but two of the cadets who were rusticated. Arrangements have been made for examination by which those exonerated will, if successful, lose no seniority.

MR. WINSTON CHURCHILL: May I ask whether, in view of the fuller evidence that has come to light, the case of the three servants sent away at the same time will be reconsidered?

MR. BRODRICK: The cases of the three servants are under consideration.

Roman Catholic Chaplains for the Navy.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork, Co., W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state on whose recommendation Roman Catholic chaplains to the Navy are appointed; and whether any Roman Catholic ecclesiastics are consulted as to the appointments and remuneration of Roman Catholic chaplains to the Navy.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The appointments of Roman Catholic chaplains are made on the recommendation of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. Any recommendations made by the Cardinal on the subject of their remuneration also receive full consideration.

CAPTAIN DONEGAN (Cork Co., E.): Are Irish ecclesiastics consulted at all in this matter?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Cardinal Vaughan is the only one consulted.

MR. GILHOOLY: But are not the appointments mainly made on the recommendation of a Church of England clergyman—the chaplain of the Fleet?

* MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The Question has been fully answered.

Naval Gunnery.

LORD CHARLES BERESFORD (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty will consider the advisability of having the names of the two best heavy gun shots on each station published, in a similar manner to that already done with regard to the best rifle shots in the Fleet.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As I stated in reply to the hon. Member for Chester on the 18th inst., the question whether any further steps can be taken to mark the supreme importance of proficiency in gunnery is being carefully considered, and the suggestion made by the noble Lord has already engaged the attention of the Admiralty. Apart, however, from other objections, it is considered that the different conditions under which individual ships carry out their prize firing render it impossible to institute personal comparisons in the manner suggested. At the same time, it is hoped that some other method of recognising and distinguishing excellence in firing not open to the objections referred to may be found.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: May I ask whether, when this matter is being considered, the advisability of making some addition to the pay of the gun captains will be considered.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There are additions made already to the ordinary pay of all gun captains.

India—Weather Telegrams.

MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the delay in the publication of the weekly telegrams received from the Viceroy of India; and whether, having regard to the commercial importance of the information contained in these telegrams, he can make arrangements for their delivery to the Press on the day of receipt or at least on the day following.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Lord G. HAMILTON, Middlesex, Ealing): The hon. Member is referred to the answer which I gave to a similar Question asked by the hon. Member for Camborne on the 25th instant.† I may add that, owing to the time at which these weekly telegrams have hitherto been received, and to the intervention of Sunday, a delay of two days in their publication has been unavoidable; but I have asked that the time of their despatch from India may be changed for the future.

† See page 1266.

MR. C. P. SCOTT: Is the noble Lord aware that the telegram of last Saturday week was not published until the following Thursday?

LORD G. HAMILTON: There was a necessary delay of two days, as I said, on account of its arriving on a Saturday, and there was also some delay in the printing.

Australian Immigration Restriction Act—Provisions as to Deserters.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is yet in a position to state the result of inquiry into the working of the Australian Immigration Restriction Act, 1901, especially as regards the penalty of £100 imposed by it upon the master or owner of any vessel from which any prohibited immigrant enters the Commonwealth; whether he is aware that this penalty cannot be enforced in the case of deserters from vessels belonging to the United States and other foreign countries with which this country has treaty provisions relative to the treatment of deserters; and whether, seeing that the effect of the Act is to subject British vessels in a British Colony to a liability from which foreign vessels are exempt, he will take steps to place owners of British and foreign vessels on the same footing.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord CRANBORNE, Rochester): I am advised that the Australian Immigration Restriction Act contains nothing which interferes with the Treaties concluded by His Majesty's Government under Section 238 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, for the surrender of merchant seamen deserters. Deserters from foreign vessels are therefore on precisely the same footing as deserters from British vessels.

City Fire Inquest.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the evidence given by Mr. Vaughan, one of His Majesty's inspectors of factories, at the City fire inquest, to the effect that

when he visited the premises after the fire no one was present but the manager of the firm, and that he was not given full information as to the work of the girls employed; and, seeing this inspector admitted that the decision of the Home Office that the place was not a factory had been based on insufficient materials, whether he will ensure that in future such inspections shall be more complete.

***THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. RITCHIE, Croydon):** I have received a Report from Mr. Vaughan on this matter, and I find that the only defect in the information which he obtained from the manager was that he did not learn that one girl had been employed for about a month before the fire in tying artificial sprays of leaves to electric tubing for use as Coronation decorations. I am advised that this additional information does not affect in any way the decision that the premises were not a workshop under the Factory Act. Mr. Vaughan is an excellent inspector, and most careful in his inquiries; and the information which he obtained in this case was amply sufficient for the purpose in view. The section of the Factory Act with regard to means of escape from fire would only have applied if there had been a workshop employing forty persons.

Tolls on Registered Tonnage.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the registered tonnage of a number of steamboats is one-fourth of their carrying power; and, seeing that tolls are only levied on the registered tonnage, will he take steps to protect the interests of the authorities who are responsible for the collection and expenditure of these tolls.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The registered tonnage of British ships is ascertained by the application of the rules contained in the Second Schedule to the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and there is no fixed relation between registered tonnage and carrying capacity. As I have previously stated, it is open to harbour authorities by means of local Acts to endeavour to

obtain power to levy dues based on a proportion of the gross instead of the net tonnage of vessels, and several authorities have secured such power.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): Will the right hon. Gentleman support endeavours by local authorities to obtain these powers?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: In almost every case that has come before me I have done so.

Vaccination—Glycerinated Calf Lymph.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the experiments of Dr. Rao, bacteriologist to the Government of Mysore, showing that glycerinated calf lymph contained organisms and was in no case sterile, he will consider the propriety of using some other lymph mixture which could be guaranteed to be free from disease germs.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Dr. Rao tested the properties of glycerine and lanoline in eliminating extraneous micro-organisms from vaccine lymph. His experiments showed that under the conditions of a tropical country neither medium could be trusted always to render the lymph absolutely sterile, but lanoline was superior to glycerine, inasmuch as it interfered less with the proper activity of the lymph in vaccination. On the other hand, the bacteriologist of the Local Government Board has found that under the conditions of this country glycerine is better than lanoline for the purpose of eliminating extraneous micro-organisms from the lymph and does not unduly interfere with the proper activity of the lymph. I do not at present propose to make any change in the methods adopted by the Local Government Board for preserving vaccine lymph.

Elementary School Children at Religious Observances.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: I beg to ask the Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that on Thursday, 29th May, children attending the day schools of St. Mark's Church, Marylebone, were

conducted to a service in the church, at which incense was used and Holy Communion celebrated without the requisite number of communicants; will he say whether this treatment of scholars attending a public elementary school in receipt of a Government grant has the sanction of the Education Department; whether they have power to prevent it; and, if not, will he take steps to obtain power to prevent such proceedings in the future.

MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth): I beg to ask the Vice President of the Committee of Council on Education whether he is aware that the children of the church school at Dorchester, Oxfordshire, are required to say the Hail Mary, to bow to the crucifix, to attend the children's mass on saints' days, and to bow to the altar; that several children who refused to bow to the altar have been caned on returning to school; and that children whose parents object to their going to mass are not allowed to take part in the school treat; and will he say what action he will take in the matter.

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University): I am informed that the school referred to in the Question of the hon. Member for the Exchange Division of Liverpool is not that of St. Mark's, Marylebone, but that of St. Mark's, Marylebone Road, which is an entirely different school. The Board of Education have no information as to the facts alleged. As to the Question of the hon. Member for the Holmfirth Division of Yorkshire, the facts suggested are not admitted by the correspondent of the Board of Education, and it is positively denied that any child has ever been caned for refusing to bow to the altar. But the religious instruction and observances in a public elementary school are subject to regulation by the managers and not by the Board of Education. Any attempt on the part of the latter to sanction or disallow the religious instruction or observances prescribed by the managers would be, in their opinion, contrary to

the spirit of the 97th Section of the Elementary Education Act, 1870. Under the Conscience Clause no child can be required against the wish of the parent to attend such observances. It is the statutory duty of the Board of Education to prevent the infraction of this provision of the Elementary Education Acts. But the Board of Education are of opinion that any extension of their duties in this respect would be inexpedient.

MR. CHARLES M'ARTHUR: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it is not the fact that I supplied to him the name and address of a gentleman who would fully authenticate the statements in the Question?

SIR JOHN GORST: I did not mean in any way to throw doubt on the facts as stated by the hon. Gentleman, but naturally it was my duty to communicate with the correspondent of the Board, and he wrote back to say that the people were away for their holidays, and that it was impossible for him to get information as to the accuracy of the facts mentioned.

MR. H. J. WILSON: May I ask whether it is permissible to take children out of the schools to church; and also whether the right hon. Gentleman has any answer to give to the latter part of my Question with regard to the school treat?

SIR JOHN GORST: I am told that there is no school treat—that the school is too poor to give a treat. That is one of the inaccuracies in the Question noted by the correspondent. With regard to the other Question of the hon. Member, I see no objection whatever to children being taken from school to a place of worship. It is constantly done.

Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness-shire): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether the Government will give facilities during the autumn session for the consideration of the Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies

Provisional Order, proposed to be proceeded with under the Private Legislation (Scotland) Act, 1899, as a private Bill, having regard to the fact that any delay will postpone the opening of the Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway, which will cause loss to the railway company, and be a source of great inconvenience to the district.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. A. GRAHAM MURRAY, Buteshire): I am informed that it would be highly inconvenient, and not in accordance with precedent, to set up an opposed Committee on a Private Bill during the autumn session. The hon. Member has already been informed that an Amendment to Standing Orders will be moved so as to admit of the proceedings already taken being available for the prosecution of the Bill if introduced into Parliament next session.

Bantry Fair.

MR. GILHOOLY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that inconvenience to the buyers and sellers of cattle was experienced at the fair held at Bantry, County Cork, on 16th instant, through the failure of the Cork, Bandon, and South Coast Railway Company to provide a sufficient supply of wagons; and whether he will take steps to prevent the recurrence of this inconvenience.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: No complaint in this matter has been made to the Board of Trade, and I have no information as to the circumstances referred to. If particulars are supplied to the Board I will cause a communication thereon to be addressed to the railway company concerned, but the matter is not one in regard to which the Board have any compulsory powers.

Telegraphic Addresses.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, as representing the Postmaster General, whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that on Wednesday last Mr. Robert Gibson, Limerick, received a wire from Kilrush, County Clare, signed Moody, and then got a notice stating that the reply which he sent could not be

delivered owing to insufficient address; and whether, with the view of preventing loss to the sender of the telegram, he will have an inquiry made into the circumstances; and will he state when the result of the inquiry will be known of the inquiry being held at Limerick Post Office.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Inquiry is being made with respect to the non-delivery of the telegram to which the hon. Member refers, and the result shall be communicated to him. The Postmaster General has received the Report of the officer entrusted with the inquiry into the Limerick office, and the several points of detail, which, as the result shows, require attention, are now being dealt with.

MR. JOYCE: Will I get a copy of the Report?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No, I think not.

Blasket Islands.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, seeing that no steps have yet been taken to build a pier at the landing stage from the Blasket Islands, Dingle Union, whether he will take some steps to enable the residents on the island to carry on communications with the shore.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WYNDHAM, Dover): In July, 1900, the Congested Districts Board offered to contribute one-half of the estimated cost of a landing-place at Dunquin on the mainland, provided the work were carried out by the county authorities on approved plans. This offer was not accepted.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the fact that excessively high rates are charged, and that—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now arguing in favour of the right hon. Gentleman changing his view.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I want further information.

MR. SPEAKER: Then any further Question must be put down in the ordinary way.

Labourers' Cottage Schemes in the Longford Union.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland can he state the cause of delay in the sixth Labourers' Act scheme in Longford Union; and, seeing that the arbitration inquiry is not being held, although all the legal formulas have been long since complied with, will he direct that the remaining stages be no longer delayed.

MR. WYNDHAM: It is not the fact that the legal formulæ have long since been complied with. New plans for the building of the cottages have been adopted by the District Council, and until copies of these have been supplied to the Local Government Board the loan cannot be sanctioned. The Board is also awaiting the receipt of necessary maps from the Council before directing the arbitration inquiry to be held.

Annally (County Longford) Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of farms on the Annally, County Longford, Estate, purchase agreements for which were signed by the tenants; how many of these tenants had their applications sanctioned, and how many were rejected; and on what ground were any tenants' agreements rejected; and, seeing that twenty years' purchase is being demanded in the case of these rejected tenants, will he request the Land Commission to reconsider these applications with a view to sale.

MR. WYNDHAM: The number of applications for purchase received by the Land Commission from tenants on this estate was 130, of which 110 were sanctioned. In the remaining twenty cases proceedings are at present pending, except in a few where the applications were for sums between £2 and £9, which the Commissioners considered should be paid by the tenants in cash. The Registrar of the Land Judges Court states that so far

as he is aware none of the tenants' agreements were rejected by the parties having carriage of the sale.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: If I am able to show the right hon. Gentleman that nine or ten applications were rejected, will he make further inquiry into the reason why?

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, but my information is that twenty cases are still pending, and that none have been rejected.

MacFarlane Estate, County Tyrone.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what is the cause of the delay in the sale to the tenants of the MacFarlane Estate at Fullagherin, County Tyrone; and, seeing that the estate has been in the Land Judges Court since 1882, and that a receiver was appointed in 1883, he can by means of the 40th section or any other procedure expedite the sale of the estate to the tenants.

MR. WYNDHAM: The sporting rights on this estate are reserved from sale. The terms of purchase, subject to this condition, have been agreed to by all the tenants save three. If these latter persist in their demand, it is not unlikely, I understand, that the proceedings for sale will fall through.

MR. DILLON: Is it not the fact that the sporting rights on this estate belong to Judge Ross, the head of the Court, and that he has blocked the sale of the estate in order to secure them?

[No answer was returned.]

Irish Local Taxation Account.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the balance accumulated on the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account during the last three years is now close on £100,000, and is yearly increasing, he will say what accumulation he will consider sufficient to meet deficiencies, as specified in Section 58, Sub-section 5, of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898; and when he intends to ask Parliament to distribute all that may not be required for deficiencies.

MR. WYNDHAM: The question of the disposal of the unexpended balance on the Local Taxation Account is admittedly one of importance, but Parliamentary action in the matter must be postponed pending full consideration of the recent Report of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation.

Birr Labourer's Cottage Scheme.

MR. REDDY (Kings Co., Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on 4th November, 1899, the Birr (No. 1) District Council made a scheme under the Labourers' (Ireland) Acts, in which they included a cottage for Patrick Cassidy in the townland of Kilnagally glebe; that, in consequence of some alteration of site, it was subsequently resolved to omit this cottage from the Provisional Order confirming the scheme on condition that it would be included in a subsequent scheme since undertaken; whether he is aware that the Local Government Board for Ireland decline to include the cottage in the new scheme, although the necessary legal formulas have been gone through, on the ground that it was not specifically included in the last scheme; and whether he will direct the Local Government Board to include the cottage on Kilnagally glebe for Patrick Cassidy, without putting the council to the expense of taking out a Provisional Order in respect of one cottage.

MR. WYNDHAM: The application was omitted from the Provisional Order in the first instance because the District Council failed to obtain the necessary consent of the parties interested to an alternative site. The consent was obtained subsequently to the issue of the Order, but the Council failed to include the case in the second scheme, and, notwithstanding the omission, requested the Board to include it in the Order confirming this scheme. The Board was advised, however, that in the absence of a specific representation in respect of the alternative site, and as the case was not included in the second scheme, it had no legal power to comply with the wishes of the council.

MR. REDDY: Can the right hon. Gentleman say why?

MR. WYNDHAM: I have just stated the reasons.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Is it not the fact that the expense incurred for a scheme for one cottage is the same as that for 100 cottages?

Craughwell (Sligo) Murder.

MR. TULLY (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state on what grounds a prisoner named Finegan has been released from custody and a prisoner named Muldowney is still detained, although both were convicted of the Craughwell murder eighteen years ago at Sligo; and will he state when Muldowney will be released.

MR. WYNDHAM: The decision to release Finegan was arrived at by the Lord Lieutenant as dispenser of the prerogative of mercy, and no reasons for its exercise, or non-exercise, can be given. I am unable to state when Muldowney will be released. This case, in common with that of any prisoner under a life sentence, will be specially considered under prison rules at the proper time.

Irish University Commission.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can now state when the final Report of the Irish University Commission will be presented.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Since this Question was asked a week ago I have made further inquiries, and, as a result, the Commissioners have informed me they are at present unable to say when the Report will be presented.

MR. DILLON: Do they give any reason? Do they propose taking further evidence?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: All they said was that it was not possible to say when the Report would be presented.

MR. DILLON: They were appointed more than a year ago.

Gibraltar Defences.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, has the Report of the engineer, sent to Gibraltar in November, upon the data completed in April last, been now received; if so, can he state its conclusions regarding the eastern harbour recommended by the Gibraltar Committee in March, 1901, as an imperative necessity. Do His Majesty's Government propose, before acting on this Report, to submit it to Mr. Stevens, the master attendant at Gibraltar; and have His Majesty's Government meantime taken any steps to diminish the exposure to fire of the works on the western side, pointed out by Captain Buckle in January, 1894, and by Major General Slade and General Sir George White in February, 1901, as making the docks and anchorage untenable, and as rendering it impossible for the Gibraltar garrison to ensure keeping Gibraltar open as a Naval base.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Report has been received, and is now under the consideration of the Board of Admiralty. I cannot at present make any statement as to the contents of the document, nor as to the steps which the Admiralty may think proper to adopt in connection with it. With regard to the last Question, I can only refer the hon. Member to what has already been said in both Houses on the subject. I cannot deal with it in answer to a Question.

Atlantic Shipping Trust.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether His Majesty's Government propose to make, before the House rises on 8th August, any statement of the policy they propose to pursue and the action, if any, which they propose to take in reference to the Atlantic Shipping Trust, which has recently acquired a large number of British vessels; do they intend to afford any, and, if so, what occasion to this House to discuss the effects of the Trust upon British trade and shipping; and will they do this before entering into any binding agreement with the Trust.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid there is practically no possibility that I

shall be in a position to make any statement before the House rises next week. If any agreement were entered into at any time with the Atlantic Shipping Trust which involved any financial arrangement it would necessarily be subject to the approval of Parliament.

Meteorological Grant.

MR. JOHN DEWAR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government, in giving the annual grant of £15,300 to the Meteorological Council, will make it a condition that the high level and low level observatories at Fort William be maintained in a state of efficiency, or consider the advisability of making an additional contribution to the Meteorological Council towards the expense of properly maintaining these observatories.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I am at present advised, it would not be desirable to impose conditions on the Meteorological Council or to inquire into this or that particular observatory. I am not prepared to give an answer to the last part of the Question.

Business of the House.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say when the Marine Works (Ireland) Bill is to be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope an opportunity will be found in the course of the present week, but I cannot say definitely.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will it be put down as the first Order?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, I gave an undertaking that it should be substantially the first Order.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Can the right hon. Gentleman give us particulars of other business to be taken this week and next, and also when the stages of the Appropriation Bill will be taken?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Education Bill will be taken on Wednesday as well as tonight; the Colonial Office Vote will be taken at the morning sitting on

Tuesday, and the Works Vote as first order at the evening sitting. On Thursday Supplementary Estimates and Excess Votes at the morning sitting, and possibly the Irish Local Government Bill Committee in the evening (I will say with more certainty tomorrow); the London Water Bill I hope may be taken on Friday, but again I cannot say for certain.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will not a Motion be necessary to enable a Bill to be taken on Thursday night instead of Supply?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes; under the circumstances I shall be obliged to move one.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: If the Water Bill is not taken on Friday, what business will be substituted for it?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There has been some difficulty as to the arrangement of Friday's business, which prevents me from saying before tomorrow what will be Friday's business if the Water Bill is not put down. The Appropriation Bill will be put down next week for Second Reading on Wednesday morning, and on Friday morning for Third Reading.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Why not put down the Supplementary Vote for the morning sitting on Thursday, and the Excess Vote for the evening sitting? It is a very important Vote, involving an expenditure of more than three millions in excess of what has been sanctioned by Parliament.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid that the demands on our time are so great that I cannot yield to my hon. friend's wish. I hope there will be plenty of time at the morning sitting for all the business I have indicated.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: What is to be the business for Monday and Tuesday next?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They will be the concluding days of Supply.

SOUTH AFRICA—COURTS MARTIAL COMMISSION.

[MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.]

(2.50.) **MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.):** I beg to ask leave of the House to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the composition of, and the scope of the reference to, the Commission appointed to inquire into the sentences imposed by military courts established by military law in the South African Colonies and Protectorates.

***MR. SPEAKER:** I do not think that this is a definite matter of urgent public importance within the meaning of the Standing Order. It will involve a discussion of what are the subjects that ought to be referred to by the Commission—much too wide a question to be discussed on such a Motion.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: With great respect, Sir, I will ask leave to confine my Motion to the composition of the Commission, but I may mention that a Motion similar in terms to that I have asked leave to move was allowed on 5th July, 1900, in reference to the Hospitals Commission in South Africa.

***MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member has had the advantage of referring to the record of that incident, which I have not; but still I must adhere to my ruling, for it appears to me these are totally different questions, the one being what enquiry should be made into the management of particular hospitals, the other a question that may raise a general discussion upon the whole administration of martial law at the Cape.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: In that case, Sir, will you allow me to curtail my Motion, so as to confine it to the "composition of the Commission?"

***MR. SPEAKER:** The hon. Member may ask the leave of the House, but in the event of its being granted he must confine himself strictly to the composition of the Commission.

The Motion was then put, That Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL be given leave to move the adjournment of the House for the

purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, viz., "the composition of the Commission appointed to inquire into the sentences imposed by military courts established under martial law in South African Colonies and Protectorates," but the pleasure of the House not having been signified, Mr. SPEAKER called on those Members who supported the Motion to rise in their places, and not less than forty Members having accordingly risen,

The Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 17, until the evening sitting this day.

PATENT LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

Reported, from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., with Amendments.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 303.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 303.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration tomorrow, and to be printed. [Bill 288.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (GOVERNMENT BUSINESS).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: A very brief statement will be required of me with regard to the Motion I have to propose, because at Question time on this and previous days I have been put through a course of interrogation which has elicited the main points of the programme the Government desire to dispose of before the summer holidays. Tonight and Wednesday will, I trust, enable the Committee with ease to dispose of Clause 7 of the Education Bill. I shall not propose to enter on Clause 8 in the course of the present session, because I think the end of Clause 7 will be a convenient point at which to break off our debates. I hope also that some progress will be made with the Water Bill, though of this I am not so absolutely confident. These are the only two Bills which I think can be described as controversial the House will be asked to deal with before the adjournment, which I hope will be on August 8. Two Irish Bills will require some discussion—not long, for they cannot be called controversial; and even less so is the Bill

in charge of the Minister for Agriculture in relation to food and drugs. The House will also have to deal with the Lords' Amendment to the Shop Clubs Bill, the Public Works Loans Bill, the Expiring Laws, the Isle of Man Customs, and the Pacific Cable Bills, all non-controversial. There are also the Lords' Amendments to the Licensing Bill, which, I am told, are not of such importance as to cause any serious inroad on Parliamentary time. In these circumstances I ask the House to make the sacrifice of convenience which is habitual at the termination of the session, and which it has been the custom to make at a much earlier period than we have now arrived at. I believe the recent practice has been to suspend the twelve o'clock Rule for the remainder of the session about the 20th July. I have the gratification of remembering that the House has been asked to sit less after twelve o'clock during the present than in any previous session in Parliamentary history for a large number of years. [AN HON. MEMBER: Autumn session.] I am dealing, of course, with the session only so far as it has proceeded. What the Autumn session may bring forth I cannot say. I do not contemplate the probability, or even the possibility, of the House sitting after Coronation Day; it is only some unforeseen accident that could produce so lamentable a consequence. The Motion I have to make will not be precisely in the form of which I have given notice. By the courtesy of an hon. Member opposite, my attention has been drawn to the drafting,[†] which, following the old model, would have the effect of depriving Members of the dinner interval. If it were carried as it stands, we should lose our dinner hour, and it might prove an inconvenient reminder of what has been gained by the new Rule. I beg to move the Resolution in this form:—

"That, until the rising of the House on August 8th, Government business be not interrupted, except at half-past seven o'clock, under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House; and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."

[†] The Motion of which Mr. Balfour had given notice had not the words "except at half-past seven of the clock in the afternoon."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): On a point of order, I submit that this alteration can only be made after notice. There are many Members who would prefer to sit during the one and a half hours from half-past seven to nine to sitting after midnight.

*MR. SPEAKER: The alteration is quite in order. It somewhat diminishes the stringency of the original Motion.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: We think it increases its severity.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, until the 8th August, Government business be not interrupted, except at half-past seven of the clock in the afternoon, under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House; and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed; and that at the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put."—(*Mr. A.J. Balfour.*)

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Setting aside for the moment these little intricacies, may I observe that the right hon. Gentleman has said with perfect truth and force that this habitual Motion has been moved later than usual. But looking back on the years that have passed let us consider what have been the intentions of these annual Motions. The usual intention of the Motion has been to facilitate the progress of unopposed business, to wind up things, and enable the House to deal with small questions thrust aside by the larger controversies of the session; to, in fact, give the House elbow room after twelve o'clock to transact humdrum but necessary business. Now let the House consider the occasion on which the Motion is made this year. We are in the middle of the discussion of the Education Bill—a great Bill exciting the most intense interest throughout the country, a Bill not only of a complicated character, but touching to some extent the inmost feelings and convictions of religious belief and the strong desire to adhere to the strict rules of political principle. The stage of the Bill at which we have arrived raises controversy in the acutest form. The right

hon. Gentleman says the close of Clause 7 would be a convenient resting place; and so it would have been, for Clause 8 opens a new subject which deserves to be taken not at the end of the present session, but with the full energy with which Members will return in the autumn. But the right hon. Gentleman has altered his Bill, and has imported into Clause 7 the very matters that deserve full consideration in Clause 8 as it existed. Therefore, we must understand, before agreeing to this Motion, that the liberty given to the Government to keep the House sitting after twelve o'clock will not be used for forcing through at this stage of the sitting this most important part of the Bill. I do not wish to exaggerate the importance of these provisions, I do not wish to speak too strongly of the feeling they have created in the country, but I do say that nothing could be more foolish, even in the interest of those who approve of the provisions in the Bill, than to add to that feeling the further feeling that the assent of the House has been obtained under pressure at the end of an exhausting session. It must be remembered that this is not an ordinary session. We commenced our proceedings in January. It may be the case that we have had but few sittings after midnight, but nevertheless our sittings have been continuous and fatiguing, and it seems to me to be asking too much of the House to propose that we should necessarily conclude Clause 7 of the Education Bill before we rise for the recess. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will be able to give an assurance that, whatever disposition he makes of the time of the House during the next fortnight, he will not keep the House sitting to a very late hour at night for the purpose of passing this Clause. It would be a most unfortunate thing, a most unwise thing, and I will go farther, and say it would be a most indecent thing, if such a question as this, affecting the dearest interests and the most intimate feelings of a large mass of the people, were dealt with in circumstances of that kind. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman can give us any such assurance. [Ministerial cries of "No, no!"] A great many hon. Members opposite appear to think that all-night sittings are something to boast about and be proud of,

but I venture to say that that is not an effective way of dealing with a critical, complicated, and delicate question. Any law secured under such circumstances, when it deals with matters of this kind, will be the constant subject of attack and denunciation in the country for many years to come. The right hon. Gentleman has, I understand, judging from what he has just said, rather given the go-by to the London Water Bill, but he does wish to proceed with the Education Bill. What I will say of this Motion is, that if the right hon. Gentleman has determined to proceed to the end of Clause 7 of the Education Bill, let it, at all events, be done in the light of day, when every part of the Bill is fully reported, and when the House is not sitting under any unusual or injurious strain. Let the right hon. Gentleman now say that he will not use this power, which, as I have said, has always been willingly given for the convenience of business of the House generally, but not in the interest of some particular Bill which the Government wish to press through. If the right hon. Gentleman will give the House some such assurance as that, he will do away with a great deal of the feeling of hostility with which we necessarily regard a Motion of this kind.

MR. JAMES LOWTHER (Kent, Thanet): Without entering into the question of the late sittings, there is a good deal to be said from the point of view raised by the right hon. Gentleman opposite. As a rule, this Motion is made for the purpose of winding up the business of the session. I think the Leader of the House is largely in sympathy with the general principle that the work of this House ought to be conducted in what the right hon. Gentleman opposite has called the light of day, or at any rate in what are called decent hours. It will be contrary to what has hitherto been recognised as a precedent, if an important clause is to be pressed through an important stage under such conditions. I do not think that my right hon. friend meant that. I hope it will be distinctly understood that we are not now giving our sanction to the prolongation of our sittings beyond

ordinary reasonable hours, and that no attempt will be made to force through an important stage of the Bill under those conditions.

*(3.5.) SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I am afraid we are being asked to do that which my right hon. friend is anxious that we should not be forced to do. It is well known that the special object of this Motion is to force through Clause 7 of the Education Bill, which deals with this question of the popular management of schools, as to which it is really essential that people should know what is being done. That is the ground of our opposition to this Motion, but in addition I confess it seems to me that we ought to extract from the Government some statement of the kind which is usual in regard to the business generally. I do not know if it is the intention of the Leader of the House to make a full statement with regard to the other business which he means to go on with in the present session. If it is the intention of the right hon. Gentleman to make a full statement upon the Motion for the Adjournment, then, of course, it is not necessary for me to pursue that subject further today. There is one Bill, against which there are four notices from the Conservative side and two from the Liberal side, and if the custom of the House allowed it there would be a larger number—I refer to the London Elections Bill. According to the precedent of the previous years, this would have been the occasion on which that Bill would have been dropped and the announcement made to that effect. No such intention has been expressed, and we ought to have an answer to this question now, or a promise of an answer on the Motion for the Adjournment. There is another matter which will not take long, but it is one which ought to be discussed in the course of the present week, or early next week. Every hon. Member is aware that two or three years after the event Parliamentary sanction is asked for for the transfer of certain items from one head of the Army Estimates to another. There is an annual general formal Motion made for the transfer of

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

these items for which Parliamentary sanction has to be obtained, and for which, two or three years after, the consent of this House is obtained. The Financial Secretary to the War Office knows that last year we were informed that the matter of the purchase of guns in Germany was one which could not be discussed on any Estimates, because they were dealt with by transfers from the clothing and other Votes, but we were promised that we should have an opportunity of discussing this subject this year. I ask the right hon. Gentleman to give the House that opportunity, in the presence of the ordinary means of communication between this House and the outside world, which has been denied to Parliament for two and a half years. The transfer is an annual Motion which is made here about this period, and the House has never had any opportunity of dealing with the matter to which I have referred. We asked last year if we should be given an opportunity this year, and we were told that we should. It is that opportunity which I now press for. There is another question which certainly arises today. Not a word has been said yet about the Rules of Procedure of this House, which have been left in an extraordinary position. Some of them have been hung up and suspended in an incomplete form, others have been passed as Sessional Orders, and a few of them have been made permanent. The whole scheme is incomplete—some have been dropped, and we do not know in what condition they stand. We ought to have from the Leader of the House a general statement as to the course he proposes to ask the House to take. We have been led to think, by the words of the Government, that so far as it is necessary to deal with them in this session they would have been dealt with before the Adjournment. That is evidently not going to be the case. Is that one of the purposes for which we are brought together in that Autumn, to further consider these Rules? We should have a full explanation in regard to this question before the House rises for the recess.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): My belief is that the best form

of words that could have been taken are those at the end of the new Rule, which prescribe that a Minister may make this Motion after notice, but without debate. I think this would have been the better form, and I am quite sure it would have been a better thing for the Leader of the House to have made this Motion every day if necessary. Then the new Rules would not have been called into question, and that would have been the best course to take. The right hon. Gentleman has, however, chosen to take this course, which has been rendered more difficult by the Amendment which has been introduced. If we are to suspend the Twelve o'Clock Rule, in order to go on sitting all night, it is rather absurd to suspend the sitting at 7.30 and resume under what, I maintain, is the absurd position that you cannot test whether you have a House or not until ten o'clock. As to the merits of this Motion, the right hon. Gentleman has truly said that this is a Motion which is usually moved at the end of the session, but this is not the end of the session, for it is only the middle of it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I said the end of the sitting.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: The right hon. Gentleman's words were "end of the session," but he meant "end of the sitting," no doubt. But this is not the termination of the session, for it is only the middle of it. There is another point with regard to this not being the termination of the session. We should have to pass the Appropriation Bill, with the result that when the end of the session actually comes—I presume some time in December—we should not have the opportunity to which we are entitled, and which we usually have on the stages of the Appropriation Bill, of finally criticising the acts of the Government during the session. As to the action of the new Rule I must say that this Motion comes most surprisingly from the right hon. Gentleman. When the new Rules were introduced, and during the course of the discussions upon them, it was intimated that the proposed changes were to be made in order that the Government might automatically have what they were entitled to ask of the time of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was contended against the new Rules that there ought to be an opportunity of discussing the general course of business, such as existed under the old Rules, whenever the Government took the time of the House, but that, as the Government did not take the time of the House under the new Rules—it having been given—there would be no such opportunity. I always replied to that by saying that practically every Government found it desirable towards the close of the session to suspend the Twelve o'Clock Rule, and therefore an opportunity must arise on that occasion.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I always understood that if there was any merit in the new Rules, it was that they avoided the necessity of the Government coming to the House for time—that it was obtained automatically—that by means of the new Rules, instead of taking the cherry in small pieces they bolted it whole. In spite of all this, and in spite of the greater amount of work which is claimed to have been put out under the new Rules, we have the right hon. Gentleman coming down with this very drastic measure, which is usual only at the end of the session. I am sorry the First Lord has had to confess that the Rules have not automatically provided him with all the time he requires—although I think he has had a good deal of time—and that he has had to make this Motion. I do not know the form in which we should vote on the Motion; I presume it is possible for an Amendment to be moved, to omit the words the right hon. Gentleman has added. As a supporter of the Government, I do not intend to take that course myself, but somebody else may.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I desire to say a word about the form of this Motion. As originally drawn, I thought it was not a bad form, and that the omission of the interval from half-past seven to nine o'clock was part of the scheme. If it had been, I should have supported it with pleasure, because, if we recovered that hour and a half of, at present, wasted time, there would really be no necessity to sit after midnight at all. I would also submit that the words the right hon. Gentleman

proposes to introduce are themselves not free from difficulty. Does the right hon. Gentleman mean them to include Friday? ["No."] But the Amendment as it stands does include Friday, and the effect of the Resolution will be not only that we shall sit after midnight on ordinary days, but that Friday shall be subject to a Rule which has never been applied to any day whatever hitherto—viz., that instead of rising at half-past five the House will sit until half-past seven. I submit that that is the inevitable result of the Resolution.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR was understood to dissent.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Then I would ask you, Sir, as a matter of order, whether the Motion as now proposed would involve the suspension of the Half-past Five Rule and the continuation of the sitting until half-past seven on Friday?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a question of Order arising out of the Motion. It is for the House to say what would be the effect of a proposition laid before it. At present it appears to me that it would affect the Half-past Five Rule.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I thought it right that the meaning of the Resolution should be distinctly understood.

*MR. SPEAKER: I was not ruling on a question of Order. It is a matter for the House. I have only expressed an opinion.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Until I hear arguments to prove the contrary, I shall assume that opinion to be correct; and I do not see how it can possibly be wrong. The Resolution clearly requires an Amendment limiting it to the first four days of the week, and excluding Friday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: But I want it to include Friday.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: If an Amendment is proposed to omit the reference to half-past seven, I shall support it, because it would give us the

hour and a half before nine o'clock, and obviate the necessity for sitting after midnight.

(3.25.) Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I am surprised at the right hon. Gentleman taking credit for moving this Resolution at a later period than is customary. The one ground on which the Motion is usually made is that stated by the right hon. Gentleman himself on July 22nd last year, when he said—

“I now propose to make the Motion, which for many years has been made at this season of the year, with a view to bringing to a close as rapidly as possible the remaining business of the session.”

Now, for the first time, as far as I can recollect, the Motion is made for the purpose, not “of bringing to a close the remaining business of the session,” but of forcing through a certain amount of business in the middle of the session. Instead of admitting that he is making a grave departure from the practice of the House, the right hon. Gentleman actually makes it a virtue that he is bringing forward the Motion on July 28th instead of July 22nd. The Motion is usually made the occasion of a full and frank disclosure by the Leader of the House of the business he proposes to take before the conclusion of the session, and of the measures he intends to throw over. We are now asked to pass the Motion on the eve of an Adjournment, which in its essence does not differ from the Easter or the Whitsuntide recess, and we are denied the information on which alone the Motion is usually made. All the right hon. Gentleman did was to tell us the business he desired to take before August 8th. What virtue is there in the 8th? It is quite unheard of for a Minister to fix some arbitrary date, which is not the end of the session, and to propose the suspension of the Twelve o’Clock Rule, in order to pass a certain amount of business by that date. With regard to this Motion being made the opportunity for discussing the general conduct of the business of the session by the Government, it is true that it was argued, when the new Rules were under consideration, that the opportunity afforded by another Motion would be taken away; but the right hon. Gentleman said that a Motion to suspend the Twelve o’Clock Rule

would be made, and that that would give an opportunity for such a general review, at any rate once each year.

The right hon. Gentleman has stated the business he hopes to take before August 8th. In my opinion, the proposal to put down the Colonial Office Vote for an afternoon sitting, and some other vote for the evening sitting, is an outrageous farce, and a denial of a fair opportunity of discussion. Are we to be told that at a time like this, and after all these events that have occurred, and the condition of affairs in South Africa at the present moment, that the Colonial Office Vote is to be confined to one afternoon sitting? It would be more decent to closure it altogether. It is a perfectly monstrous thing that, at a time like this, when the remaining days of this portion of the session are being snapped up, and only a few remaining days for the allotted days of Supply, that we should be deliberately told beforehand, without any reference to the character of the discussions, and knowing the nature of the discussions that can be raised this year, that one afternoon is sufficient for the discussion of the Colonial Secretary’s Vote? Then there are the Supplementary Estimates to be discussed, some of which will raise questions of enormous importance. To put them down for an afternoon sitting is not keeping faith with the House. The Government themselves agreed that these Supplementary Estimates are estimates for raising fresh services, and that they should not be included in the twenty-two ordinary allotted days; and I maintain that that confession on the part of the Government involved a promise that a reasonable time would be given for the discussion of these new services. Does any one contend that an afternoon sitting is sufficient for that? I say that it is absurd; and that, in my opinion, such an offer is not a fair redemption on the part of the Government of the pledge they gave during the debates on the new Rules. It is customary at this time of the session for the House, if the Government desire to make a case for additional time, to take this opportunity of surveying the conduct of the business throughout the session, and the character of the session itself.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member cannot review the whole session under this Motion.

MR. DILLON: I do not intend to go into a detailed survey of the session. I submit to your ruling, Sir, but my point is that we are entitled to consider two matters. First of all, the length of the session. We were called together on 14th January, and have been sitting ever since, which is a month longer than the ordinary length of the session, and, in the second place—and this is a point directly germane to the question at issue—we are now subjected to what may fairly be described as an intolerable strain, which compels the House to meet at two o'clock. The hon. Gentleman opposite, in the course of his speech, dwelt on the enormous importance of the reform which had been achieved by the dinner interval and adduced that as an argument in favour of the new Rule. But I regard the Dinner Rule as a fraud. To those of us who dine in the House, it gives us no relief whatever, and in place of that we have an hour added to our labour in the middle of the day, which, I can assure the hon. Member, has enormously increased the strain of those who regularly attend the House. I watch with curiosity the conduct of the enthusiasts who are in favour of the new Rules. These hon. Gentlemen said that they would throw away briefs and sacrifice hundred guinea fees in order to be present in the House; but, just as I expected, these enthusiastic patriots never or rarely appear in the House until five o'clock. The Ministers themselves who come to the House at two o'clock feel the strain enormously. This new Rule, instead of being a reform, has been a great addition to the strain and endurance to hon. Members who attend the House regularly, and therefore that is a strong argument, which should not be left out of sight at the present moment. When we are asked to sit after twelve o'clock, why should we be brought down to the House at two o'clock? In my judgment, eleven o'clock under the new rule is as bad as twelve o'clock under the old rule. I trust the right hon. Gentleman, in administering the twelve o'clock rule, will take that fact in view, and will not call

upon hon. Members to sit up to unreasonable hours in the morning. I am strongly of opinion that, in the interests of the Education Bill itself—in which I am as much concerned as the right hon. Gentleman himself—all-night sittings on the 7th Clause at this season of the year will not be good for us. I am convinced of that, and that if this 7th Clause is driven through the House in the small hours of the morning, a cry will be given to hon. Gentlemen opposite which the right hon. Gentleman will regret.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.): I rise to confirm the statement of my hon. friend that this Motion is contrary, both in letter and in spirit, to all precedents for the conduct of the business of the House of Commons. As to the letter, it is a contradiction in terms to say that it is a Motion that has been made for the purpose of closing the session. It is not made for the purpose of closing the session at all. We all know what the purpose of this Motion is. It is in order to prevent the country having the opportunity of expressing its views on Clause 7 of the Bill. That is the real meaning of this Motion. It is a Motion upon an Amendment which has been before the House only a few days. The right hon. Gentleman has not even adhered to the principle or the letter of the clause that he originally had in the Bill dealing with this matter. He has sprung on the House, I may say almost by surprise, this Amendment we are now considering. The object is to force this Amendment through the House without affording proper or decent time to consider it here, or to our constituents for expressing their opinion upon it in the country. Let it be thoroughly understood that that is the meaning of this Motion. And, as has been said, it will exasperate this controversy and will lead the people outside to believe that the House of Commons has not given the time it ought to have given to this critical question—as critical question it is. I believe that we and our constituencies have never been fairly dealt with on this matter, and that the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman is really a trick to get through the critical part of the Bill at

hours of the night when the country cannot know what arguments had been used in its favour or against it. Therefore I say it is contrary to the spirit of the conduct of the business of the House of Commons, which has never endeavoured to keep from the judgment of the country matters of the most vital importance. We are asked to do that which, in my opinion, the House of Commons has never been invited to do, and which, if hon. Members respect themselves, they ought not to consent to. I was asked the other day by a friend what I thought of the new Rules, and I said that I judged of things by results, and the result of these new Rules was an autumn session. We met a month earlier than usual, and we were told that by meeting that month sooner, we would be free at an earlier period.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I never said anything of the kind.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: Of course, if the right hon. Gentleman tells me that, I withdraw the statement at once. At all events, I did think myself—I do not know from what source I derived the opinion—that when we met a month sooner we were not going to have an autumn session, and that with all the advantages of the new Rules, the Government were to have more time than ever formerly for the business of the House. As my hon. friend has asked, what has meeting an hour earlier done to get through with the business of the House sooner? It has done nothing at all. I agree with what has been said that it is a great inconvenience to Members of the House—this early meeting. It has been productive of no good results at all. Everybody knows that the attendance is not as numerous as it used to be with the former hours. For these reasons, I think that, in the interests of fair debate, and, above all, in the interests of our constituents, the questions involved in Clause 7 of the Bill should be thoroughly understood in the country, and that they should not be treated in the manner proposed and forced through the House of Commons. What has been the practice under the new Rules? We know that the attendance in the House at two o'clock is not so numerous as it used to be at three o'clock, and the discussions are merely fragmentary. The right hon. Gentleman said that he had treated the House very

fairly in regard to the Foreign Office Vote, the Army Vote, and the Navy Vote. We are this week to have the Colonial Vote. That Vote, of all Votes this session, is the most important of all. Under this Vote the Colonial conferences, South Africa, and everything else—matters of the most vital importance to this country—are dealt with, and yet, for the purpose of forcing Clause 7 of the Education Bill through the House, it is to have a morning sitting devoted to it. Well, I say that that is not treating the House of Commons fairly. It has never been so dealt with in matters of great consequence, and to endeavour within a few hours to cram through the Colonial Vote is a thing entirely contrary to the ordinary practice of Parliament, and I think we ought to resist the attempt to treat a matter of such importance in that way. The new Rules seem not to be imprinted very strongly on the memory of the First Lord. His proposal is entirely inconsistent with the new Rules. He makes an Amendment which, in your opinion, is inconsistent with the new Rules.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT: I think you ought to address that remark to the Speaker. The Speaker's opinion is that it will include Friday. Are we to sit on after twelve o'clock midnight on Friday? Really, we want a little information on this matter. Are the new Rules going to form part of the business of the autumn sitting? The attempt to treat this, which is the middle, and not the end of the session, on the conditions which are only applicable to the end of the session, is a thing entirely contrary to Parliamentary precedent and practice; and I feel that, for every reason, we ought to resist this Motion, which, as I have said, is not fair to the House, and is not presenting the House in the light in which it ought to be presented to the country. It will be felt that a most critical part of the Education Bill is being—I was going to use the phrase—smuggled through the House of Commons, without the opportunity of having daylight thrown upon it, after twelve o'clock. This question is to be handled, and the country is not to be

allowed the opportunity of considering the reasonable Amendments brought forward by hon. Members.

(3.48.) MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The speech of the right hon. Gentleman was filled with a great many statements for which there seems to be very little authority. He quite mistakes the difficulty that has arisen on the question of form. It may be that I failed to understand what the right hon. Gentleman dropped in the course of his speech, and that may have caused some misunderstanding between him and me. It is intended that we shall sit at present in two sittings — afternoon and evening — four days a week. During these days the sittings shall not be interrupted by the twelve o'clock rule. As regards Friday, the same course shall be adopted as was often adopted as regards Wednesday, namely, that half-past five should not see the termination of our sittings. I do not anticipate that we shall be obliged to sit to a very late hour on Friday on that account, but it is to be anticipated that we shall sit on Friday, as on Wednesday under similar circumstances. The right hon. Gentleman and some other hon. Gentlemen were extremely indignant with the Government for allocating an afternoon sitting to the discussion of the Colonial Vote, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire fell into a blunder for which the hon. Member for East Mayo was responsible. The right hon. Gentleman appeared to think that we were going to sacrifice a full discussion on the Colonial Vote in order to get more time for the Education Bill. That is a very delusive idea. The right hon. Gentleman has forgotten what the Supply Rule is. The time under the Supply Rule may have been improperly divided between the different claims upon it, but it is one of the great advantages of that Rule that there never can be a question raised under it of sacrificing discussion in Supply for the discussion of controversial bills. As regards the allocation of an afternoon sitting to the Colonial Vote, the House knows the unfortunate reason which has caused the Vote to be so long delayed. While I frankly admit that I have given the evening sitting to the Office of Works Vote in consequence of an earnest demand made upon me, I think

there is a collateral advantage. The considerable strain on my right hon. friend in dealing with the Vote will not be prolonged if it is disposed of at the afternoon sitting. That is not my motive, but, nevertheless, that is the effect. Of course, if it is made clear that the leaders of the Opposition disapprove of this allocation of time, I should greatly regret it, but I should feel bound to do what I could to meet their views.

I pass from that—which has really no immediate connection with the Vote before us—to the question raised by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean. He has asked me various questions as to the remaining business of the session. He asked particularly about the London Elections Bill and the new Rules. As regards the London Elections Bill, I do not think it is very probable that we shall hear more about it in the course of the present session. It was brought in by my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board, in obedience to a request from both sides of the House, as a non-controversial measure. It has proved to be a very controversial measure. Evidently those in favour of it have run away from their guns, or they do not represent the great body of opinion they claimed to represent. In any case, I do not propose to expend time upon it. As to the Rules of Procedure, it is perfectly evident to the House that we must make Standing Orders of those Rules which at present are only in the transitory phase of being Sessional Orders. Whether any other Standing Orders ought or ought not to be passed I do not now say, but I do not think it will be possible to complete the whole programme of the alteration of our Rules which I proposed at the beginning of the year.

Then I come to the larger question raised by the Leader of the Opposition, and enforced by the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down. I confess that I listened to their speeches with absolute amazement. One of the criticisms passed upon me was that this was not the end of the session, but only the end of this part of the session. That is, of course, perfectly true. It is desirable that we should separate by August 8th, and the amount of business I ask the House to get through

Sir William Harcourt.

by that date is not an excessive amount. I think that is some reason to ask that the twelve o'clock rule be suspended in order that the House may prorogue on August 8th. I have now only asked that there should be an adjournment. I see no difference in principle at all. When the right hon. Gentleman opposite says he never remembers such a thing being done, I think he ought to cast his mind back to the methods of operation which they themselves practised. Does the right hon. Gentleman remember what he did over the Home Rule Bill? These two right hon. Gentlemen come down here and say, because we talk of finishing before August 8th Clause 7, on which we have already spent two whole Parliamentary days, that we are doing something in the dark; and we are threatened with something—I know not what—from the country because we legislate after twelve o'clock on a subject which greatly interests them. I suppose the people of the country were greatly interested in the Home Rule Bill, and I suppose that deserved to be discussed. The right hon. Gentleman first discussed it and then threw it into compartments, or else he threw it into compartments and then discussed it. Whichever it was, the then Leader of the House moved the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule before the separation for the holidays in the autumn, and that Motion included not merely the days intervening between the Motion and the holidays, but it included the whole of the autumn session. These are the people who come down and, because I venture to suggest that for ten days it would be convenient that the twelve o'clock rule should be suspended, say that the Constitution is in danger and that I am endeavouring to thrust controversial legislation through the House in the small hours of the morning. The suggestion, if I may say so respectfully, looking to the Gentlemen who made it, is almost more than absurd. It is verging on the indecent.

One more observation fell from the Leader of the Opposition. He said the Government had deliberately tried to introduce under Clause 7 of the Education Bill controversies about the management of schools which came under Clause 8. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that that is a complete

illusion. It was because his friends sitting next him put down long Amendments, and it became perfectly clear that we could not, do what we would, avoid the whole controversy on Clause 7 that we have adopted the course we have adopted, and which I think is really for the convenience of the House. I have been asked whether we will have all night sittings over Clause 7. I hope we shall not have all-night sittings over anything, but there must be reason and moderation in all those concerned in our discussions. Observe the contradictory accusations made against us. We have been told that the session is too long. We have been told that we have met too early and that we are continuing too late. At the same time we are told that we are burking discussion and that we have asked the House to consider too many questions in the course of the session. If the House is incapable of dealing with an Education Bill of twenty clauses and to alter the Rules, it has confessed its own impotence. I have endeavoured to make the discussion as brief as I could. I have certainly not endeavoured to prolong it by irritating remarks. Perhaps I have not used the closure sufficiently often, but when I have used it I have been reproached by hon. Gentlemen opposite for doing so, and they have indicated to me that we should have got on much better without it. But you cannot have it both ways. The House must remember that the number of days at our disposal is a limited quantity, and if the Government do not squeeze in too big a programme of business, then it rests with the House to deal with the matter according to their own judgment. No such accusation can be brought against us, and if I ask the House to finish Clause 7 of the Education Bill before we separate in August, even the most vigorous of our opponents, I think, will have to admit that we are not making any unreasonable demand.

*(4.0.) MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): I want to bring to an issue the differences between this side of the House and the other side. We desire to exclude the Education Bill and the Water Bill from the Motion which the right hon. Gentleman has moved. The

effect of this course would be that we should discuss the Education Bill when it is set down, and also the Water Bill, until twelve o'clock, and then we should pass to the other business which the right hon. Gentleman says it is necessary to pass in order to finish up the session. I have been looking at the Amendments on the Paper to the Education Bill. There are 131 notices on the Paper to Clause 7. Of these thirty-nine are obvious duplicates, and that leaves ninety-two for discussion, and of course some of those are mere consequential Amendments. These are what the hon. Gentleman is asking us to dispose of in the early hours of the morning, when the House is tired out, and when the discussions are not reported; and he is aiming to keep the country in the dark as to what is being done by him and his Government in the House of Commons. Is there any justification for this course? There have been sixteen sittings devoted to the Education Bill. The First Lord of the Treasury has referred to the Home Rule Bill, but he could have found a much better parallel in the Parish Councils Bill. In a letter which appeared in *The Times* of January 8th, 1894, writing about the Guardians Clause, which was merely a proposition to give the people some voice in the appointment of Guardians, the right hon. Gentleman said—

"It was fought, line for line, for seven days, and was finally debated and decided against as a whole."

If the right hon. Gentleman took seven days to fight one clause of a Bill which he originally described as non-contentious, how many days ought he now to allow for a clause dealing with education, which raises questions of vital moment to the country, and which is endeavouring to reverse a policy which has been approved of by the people for nearly thirty years? [Ministerial cries of "No, No."] Probably those hon. Members who cried out "No, no," represented constituencies where there are no School Boards. What was the answer which the right hon. Gentleman got at Bury?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! It must be obvious to the hon. Member that it is not in order to discuss the Bury election.

Mr. Corrie Grant.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: I was endeavouring to compare the time occupied upon the discussion of this Clause with the time occupied in the discussion of two minor clauses of the Parish Councils Bill. On the Charities Clause the right hon. Gentleman and his friends took six days, and on that and the Guardians Clause alone they took almost as much time as this House has taken over seven important clauses of this Education Bill. Where is the justification for forcing us to discuss the Education Bill in the small hours of the morning? The right hon. Gentleman said they were "threatened with something in the dark in the country." It is not in the dark. We have just had an election at Clitheroe, and there the right hon. Gentleman has not dared to put a candidate in the field. There is an election pending in North Leeds, where the right hon. Gentleman has ventured to put a candidate in the field; but does anybody call him a candidate? [Cries of "Question, question!"] The answer he will get from Leeds will justify the answer which came from Bury. The right hon. Gentleman talks about threats from the country—

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I never talked about threats from the country.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: The right hon. Gentleman's words were "threatened with something in the dark in the country."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I was quoting the words of the right hon. Gentleman opposite.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: The right hon. Gentleman is now adopting, as a reason for pressing this forward, the argument that there were threats made to him from this side of the House as to what would happen in the country. The right hon. Gentleman is now engaged in the thankless task of forming a Ministry. [Cries of "Question, question!"]

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a matter which is open for discussion now.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT: I beg to move my Amendment.

Amendment proposed—"After the first word 'Business,' to insert the words 'with the exception of the Education (England and Wales) Bill and the London Water (*re-committed*) Bill.'"—(*Mr. Corrie Grant.*)

Question proposed—"That those words be there inserted."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I rise to support the Amendment of my hon. friend. If the right hon. Gentleman had just moved to clear up the business at the end of the session there would have been no real resistance, because that would have been perfectly fair. The right hon. Gentleman, however, proposes to utilise this Motion in order to dispose of a controversial Clause in a Bill, not one-third of which is through the House of Commons. The Home Rule Bill is not a precedent, because it was disposed of before the Ministry moved this Motion at all. My recollection is that the Home Rule Bill was not discussed under the pressure of the suspension of the twelve o'clock Rule at all. The Bill had been disposed of when the Ministry moved this Motion for the purpose of clearing up Supply and two or three Departmental Bills which remained undiscussed. I do not think the Government suspended the twelve o'clock Rule to discuss any part of the Parish Councils Bill. Supposing it had been the Home Rule Bill, and the Government had got to the 6th, 7th, or 8th Clause, and intended to dispose of the rest of the Bill in an autumn session? I know what the right hon. Gentleman would have said. The Government did not then suspend the Rule to dispose of any controversial Bill at all. Why does the right hon. Gentleman not stick to his autumn session and not utilise exceptional measures. This is the most complicated, important, and critical Clause in the whole Bill, and if there is a Clause which ought to be discussed fully, it is this one. It is not merely details of machinery, but the Clause itself is full of great, important and crucial principles, and, according to the way we decide them, and the judgment we pass upon them, will depend the whole success or otherwise of this Bill in the country. Is it desirable or fair that the right hon. Gentleman should insist upon discussing

this Clause after twelve o'clock? Today there will be a discussion on a Motion for the adjournment on a very important issue which will throw the discussion on Clause 7 far into the night. Does the right hon. Gentleman want to discuss this Clause in the light of day or in darkness? Does he prefer darkness to light, because his deeds are evil? In order that this momentous Clause may be discussed, the right hon. Gentleman wishes to confine discussion on other Bills. When was the Appropriation Bill ever disposed of at a morning sitting, especially in a year in which there has been the largest expenditure in our living memory, viz., £200,000,000? In order to get more time for his Education Bill, the right hon. Gentleman now proposes to discuss that huge expenditure during a morning sitting. I think that is unfair. I hope the right hon. Gentleman will reconsider his decision, and treat this Parliament as the late Liberal Administration treated the then Parliament, and keep the time after twelve o'clock, not for the discussion of important measures, but to sweep up the odds and ends of the session.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he thought the right hon. Gentleman would acknowledge that the Amendment was reasonable. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would clear up a point which was still doubtful with regard to the London Water Bill. He had gathered from the right hon. Gentleman's statement that no more would be heard of that measure until the autumn session. It was a very difficult Bill to discuss; and there were only a few hon. Members who represented what he believed was the predominant feeling of London regarding it. There was a further reason why the Amendment should be favourably entertained. Apart from the two contentious Bills covered by the Amendment, there was also a Bill with reference to a tramway on the Embankment. The Lords' Amendments to that measure would have to be considered. Then, again, a deputation was to wait on him regarding two Bills in reference to the police. Of the twenty-three Bills which had been asterisked as Government measures, the right hon. Gentleman had only mentioned

four or five. Surely the House ought now to know what the intentions of the Government were with regard to all these measures, and unless the Opposition was met in a reasonable spirit great confusion would result, and business would not be got through as the right hon. Gentleman would wish. There was a slight contention between the right hon. Gentleman and the hon. Member for King's Lynn as to what the right hon. Gentleman said during the debate on the Supply Rule with reference to business after twelve o'clock. On the 30th of April—

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The whole Resolution is not now before the House.

MR. LOUGH said he would bow to the ruling of Mr. Speaker; but the meaning of the Amendment was that the twelve o'clock Rule at the end of the session should only be suspended to carry through necessary business, which the Government considered should be passed before the adjournment. The contention of his hon. friend was that the right hon. Gentleman was now using the suspension of the Rule in order to get on with two measures which he had already decided should not be closed during the present period of the session. Their objection was that the right hon. Gentleman was not fulfilling the promise he gave. On the 30th April, during the discussion on the Supply Closure Rule, the right hon. Gentleman accepted an Amendment enabling this business to be taken on the last two Supply nights between ten o'clock and midnight, which indicated that he did not assume that the House would sit after midnight. The right hon. Gentleman also stated that the suspension of the twelve o'clock Rule at the end of the session would only be used to carry through Bills which the Government had declared it was absolutely necessary to finish before the House separated. A new precedent was now proposed to be set up, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman would facilitate matters generally by accepting the Amendment.

SIR GEORGE NEWNES (Swansea, Town) said that the reason they objected

Mr. Lough.

to the Motion of the right hon. Gentleman was that they regarded Clause 7 as a vital part of the Education Bill, because when the right hon. Gentleman had got Clause 7 he would have got his Bill. Why could not the right hon. Gentleman wait until the autumn session and have the matter thoroughly discussed? It was not a case of now or never. The right hon. Gentleman would have ample opportunities during the autumn session; but meantime he ought to give the country a chance of thinking over the matter. The Government were not elected on an education mandate. They were elected on the idea that a vote given to the Liberals was a vote given to the Boers. The Government had received no mandate to pass the Education Bill, and, therefore, he strongly and earnestly protested against their getting through a most vital part of that measure in the dead of night when the proceedings could not be reported, and when, consequently, the country would not be able to judge for itself.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said that they were all agreed, that, if possible, the House should rise on the 8th of August. The object of the Amendment was merely to give the House more time to discuss the other measures which the right hon. Gentleman said it was desirable to pass. There was one Bill which remained to be considered. It was perhaps the most Protectionist measure ever brought before the House of Commons, although it appeared under the seductive title of the Food and Drugs Act Amendment Bill. Already there were five pages of Amendments on the Paper regarding it, most of them being in the names of hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Second Reading was taken by a mere fluke after midnight; and now at the end of the session they were asked to dispose of a measure which would require two or three days consideration. The Agents General of the most important Colonies had protested against the Bill; and in the closing days of the session they were asked to discuss five pages of Amendments to a measure regarding which not a word of explanation had been given. The most important part of the Bill would not come into operation until January 1st, 1904; and it was absurd to take up valuable time

in discussing it now. It was an undigested measure which had not been properly considered; and it might well be postponed until the autumn. Even the supporters of the Bill would welcome its postponement, as nothing would be gained by persisting in it at present.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he did not desire to say anything about the Education Bill; but he desired to enter a protest in connection with the London Water Bill. Up to the present, the Bill had only been discussed on two short Parliamentary days; and now the right hon. Gentleman proposed the suspension of the twelve o'clock Rule in order that it might be taken at a late hour of the night. The right hon. Gentleman in a speech he delivered outside the House, said that hon. Members who opposed the Water Bill were merely actuated by a desire to impede the Education Bill; but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that there was no foundation for the statement. His hon. friends and himself believed that the Water Bill was a thoroughly bad Bill; and their opposition to it had nothing to do with the Education Bill. He did not think it was fair to ask the House, on the third occasion of this Bill being taken, to suspend the ordinary Rule; and, therefore, in regard to the London Water Bill, he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman, if he intended to take it again this session, to take it under the ordinary Rules of the House.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) pointed out that although the Food and Drugs Bill might be objected to on the ground that it was Protectionist, all the Agricultural Members of the House could assure the right hon. Gentleman it was only Protectionist in the sense that its object was to protect the working classes from adulterated foods. The Amendments put upon the Paper were, with one exception, not hostile, but were placed upon the Paper to improve the measure, and there was no doubt, if the Government could give

a small amount of time, the Bill would pass before the House rose. He supported the Amendment.

*SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich) said he should vote for the Amendment, because he did not think the effort of the right hon. Gentleman to force through this Clause was wisely directed. The right hon. Gentleman had cited as a precedent for the Motion he had made the action taken by a Liberal Government on the Home Rule Bill, but there was a great difference between the two cases. In the case of the Home Rule Bill of 1893 there was an irreconcilable difference of opinion between the two sides of the House with regard to the objects of that Bill. On this occasion there was no such irreconcilable difference. There was the strongest disposition on the part of hon. Members on the Unionist side of the House to meet hon. Members on the Liberal side, and he thought if the right hon. Gentleman used the Party screw to force through the 7th Clause, he would be unwise to the last degree. It would be disastrous to the country, and would bring woe to the right hon. Gentleman's supporters. There was not a Unionist Member who was not elected by Non-conformists' votes, and they would lose all the votes of the Nonconformists at the next election if this Bill was forced through in its present shape. He believed the action of the right hon. Gentleman would also offend the feeling of a vast number of Churchmen in this country, especially Evangelical Churchmen. He regretted the action of the right hon. Gentleman from the bottom of his heart. The Clause which touched the country most closely was to be driven through with the Party force. He wanted peace on this question, and that it should be settled, in the right hon. Gentleman's own words, "in a spirit of Christian charity."

(4.28.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 149; Noes, 209. (Division List No. 317.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P (Glouc., Stroud)

Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry

Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William

Boland, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burke, E. Haviland-
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carew, James Laurence
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crean, Eugene
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duffy, William J.
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilbooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Gray, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hammond, John
 Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
 Harwood, George

Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Labouchere, Henry
 Langley, Batty
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mather, Sir William
 Mooney, John J.
 Moss, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Newnes, Sir George
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. Glam'rg'n-Gower
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Tully, Jasper
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. Huddersfield
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. William M'Arthur
 and Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Chas. William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert

Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brown Alexander H. (Shropshire)
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Coddington, Sir William
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)

Crossley, Sir Saville
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, Wm. Bromley-
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)

Gardner, Ernest	Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine	Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick	Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)	Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Gordon, Maj Evans (Tr' H'mlets	Lonsdale, John Brownlee	Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)	Lowe, Francis William	Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon	Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)	Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (I. of Wight)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim	Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft	Sharpe, William Edward T.
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)	Lucas, Regd. J. (Portsmouth)	Simeon, Sir Barrington
Greene, Sir EW (B'ry S Edm'nds	Macartney, Rt Hn. W. G. Ellison	Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Greenfell, William Henry	Macdonald, John Cumming	Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Greville, Hon. Ronald	Maconochie, A. W.	Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill	Manners, Lord Cecil	Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.	Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.	Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G. (Midd'x	Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire	Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.	Middlemore, John Throgmort'n	Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Hare, Thomas Leigh	Midmay, Francis Bingham	Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Harris, Frederick Leverton	Molesworth, Sir Lewis	Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Haslett, Sir James Horner	Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)	Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.	More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)	Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley	Morgan, David J. (Walth'stow)	Thornton, Percy M.
Heaton, John Henniker	Morrell, George Herbert	Tollemache, Henry James
Hermion-Hodge, Sir Robert T.	Morrison, James Archibald	Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E	Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford	Tritton, Charles Ernest
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside	Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (B'te	Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry	Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)	Valentia, Viscount
Hoult, Joseph	Myers, William Henry	Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Howard, John (Kent Faversham	Newdigate, Francis Alexander	Warde, Colonel C. E.
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham	Nicholson, William Graham	Warr, Augustus Frederick
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil	Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)	Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Hudson, George Bickersteth	Parker, Sir Gilbert	Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)	Peel, Hon. Wm. R. Wellesley	Whiteley, H. Ashton und. Lyne
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse	Pierpoint, Robert	Williams, Rt Hn J Powell (Birm.
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.	Platt-Higgins, Frederick	Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton	Powell, Sir Francis Sharp	Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)	Pretyman, Ernest George	Willox, Sir John Archibald
Kenyon, Hon Geo. T. (Denbigh.	Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward	Wills, Sir Frederick
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)	Purvis, Robert	Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Knowles, Lees	Pym, C. Guy	Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Lanibton, Hon. Frederick Wm.	Rankin, Sir James	Wodehouse, Rt Hon. E. R. (Bath
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)	Rasch, Major Frederic Carne	Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)	Rattigan, Sir William Henry	Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)	Reid, James (Greenock)	Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Lawson, John Grant	Renshaw, Charles Bine	Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm	Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green	Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.
Legge, Col. Hon. Henega	Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson	
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie	Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)	
Llewellyn, Evan Henry	Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye	
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.	Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford.	

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther

Main Question again proposed.

* (4.50.) MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) asked whether he would be in order in moving to omit the words "except half-past seven in the afternoon."

*MR. SPEAKER said the Amendment itself would not be out of order. Something more, however, would be required in order to make the Amendment work satisfactorily with the Rules of the House, because they provided that at nine o'clock there should be an evening sitting, and that at that hour, under certain conditions, certain business should be taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: As I understood your ruling, this Amendment, if

introduced by itself, would produce hopeless confusion in regard to other Orders under which the House does its business. It would be impossible to know when private business, Motions for the adjournment of the House, and so forth, would come on. Did I understand you to rule that we must have a general scheme before us before the hon. Member moved his Amendment?

*MR. SPEAKER: What I said was that subsequent Amendments would be necessary to make the Amendment work satisfactorily, but I do not think that that makes the present proposal out of order.

*MR. FENWICK said the Prime Minister had distinctly stated that his object in moving the suspension of

the Twelve o'clock Rule was to secure more time for the discussion of Clause 7 of the Education Bill. No one had suggested, nor could anyone honestly suggest, that there had been anything like obstruction to the measure. Clause 7 was the most important Clause in the Bill. But when we remember that Clauses 13 and 19 of the Parish Councils Bill—neither of which raised points of anything like such vital importance—occupied six and seven days respectively, it was rather unreasonable to say that this Clause should have only two more Parliamentary days. Since its original introduction the Clause had been twice re-cast by the Prime Minister himself, and to expect to get such a vital Clause through in two more days was altogether unreasonable. If, however, the Clause was to be pushed through, he desired the House to have as much time as possible for its consideration, and that was his object in moving the Amendment. As was the case with many other Members, circumstances compelled him to remain on the premises from two o'clock until the rising of the House at midnight, and it was a considerable hardship to be compelled to sit twiddling one's thumbs during the hour and a half before 7.30 and nine o'clock, while other hon. Members were enjoying themselves away from the House. If the Amendment were accepted, the House would sit continuously as they used to do before the introduction of the new Rules, and he would much rather they did that than sit an hour and a half after midnight. All experience went to prove that it was in the early hours of the morning that debates were least successful, and that after ten or eleven o'clock at night it was hopeless for any Government to expect to make progress with a controversial measure. In order, therefore, to enable the right hon. Gentleman to utilise the time of the House to the best possible advantage, he begged to move.

Amendment proposed,

To leave out the words "except at half-past Seven of the clock in the afternoon."—*(Mr. Fenwick.)*

Question proposed,

"That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Fenwick,

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said that it appeared to him that amongst the questions they had to discuss before the adjournment there were some of extreme importance, and the time proposed to be allocated to them was wholly insufficient. Take, for instance, the Colonial Office Vote. Instead of that discussion terminating at 7.30 it might very well go on until nine o'clock. Then there was the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill, which he understood would be taken at the morning sitting on Wednesday week. Having regard to the fact that the Foreign Office Vote debate was cut short this year, and that the House did not receive information upon many important points in relation to foreign affairs, which he thought hon. Members were entitled to have, if this Amendment were agreed to it would give them an hour and a half extra time on the Appropriation Bill to obtain that explanation of important questions involved in these Votes which the House was entitled to. The same remarks would apply to the two days upon which the Educational Bill was to be taken. Clause 7 was the crux of the whole Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member is going beyond this Amendment.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON said he would merely content himself by saying that it was important that they should have this additional time. When the Procedure Rules were passed, the distinct impression left on their minds was that when the House met at two o'clock in the afternoon, the necessity for all-night sittings would be obviated, and it was under that belief that many of them had agreed to the proposal that the House should meet an hour earlier. It would appear, however, that this intention or promise, was not to be fulfilled, and that a strain was to be put on them which would become perfectly intolerable. He should himself infinitely prefer to forego the usual dinner interval of an hour and a half during the next ten days rather than to sit an hour and a half after twelve o'clock. The right

hon. Gentleman's Motion did not indicate clearly what he intended or what he meant.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes it does, it is quite clear.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON said the Motion provided—

"That, until the rising of the House on August 8th, Government business be not interrupted, except at half past seven o'clock, under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the sittings of the House."

The only Standing Order was that which provided that the sitting should be suspended on the first four days of the week at 7-30 till nine. He begged to support the Amendment of his hon. friend.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, being of opinion that the House was prepared shortly to come to a decision.

Question again proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON complained of the position in which the House had been put by the want of forethought shown by the right hon.

Gentleman. The present Amendment would restore the Motion of the First Lord to the form in which it had been on the Order Paper for some days, and yet the right hon. Gentleman had suggested that to accept the Amendment would involve the House in hopeless confusion. In other words, the right hon. Gentleman confessed that his own Motion, which he persevered in for days, would involve the House in hopeless confusion, but he thought the right hon. Gentleman was wrong in that contention. When his hon. friend proposed to do what the Prime Minister was obliged to do, instead of giving any answer and even before waiting until the question was put, the right hon. Gentleman rose in his place to move the closure. He did not think he need say a word more. [Cries of "Hear, hear."]

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said those interruptions exhibited the hopeless confusion which the Government were in. There was somebody who ought to say a word more and that was the author of the original Motion.

(5-8.) Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 215; Noes, 155. (Division List No. 318.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Beresford, Lord Charles Willi'm
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)

Bull, William James
Carlile, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Wor'cr)
Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coddington, Sir William
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. (Athole)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield.

Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Flower, Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'm'l'ts)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Linc.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (Bry's Edm'nds)

Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid'x)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'r'y)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, Jno. (Kent, Faversham)
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Morton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)

Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (W'lt'h'mst'w)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parker, Sir Gilbert
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pierpont, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander

Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Sharpe, William Edward T.
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Start, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritten, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Warde, Col. C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-and-Lyne)
 Williams, Rt. Hon. J. Pow'ell (Birm.)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Abraham, William (Rhonda)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Boland, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burke, E. Haviland
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Carew, James Lawrence
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crean, Eugene
 Dalziel, James Henry

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Delany, William
 Delvin, Joseph
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duffy, William J.
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Emmott, Alfred
 Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone)
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James

Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Haldane, Rt. Hon. Sir Richd. B.
 Hammond, John
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harwood, George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Labouchere, Henry
 Langley, Batty
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)

Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
 Mather, Sir William
 Mooney, John J.
 Moss, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Newnes, Sir George
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norton, Capt. Cecil William
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Kelly, James Roscommon, N.
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.

Palmer, Sir Charles M. (Durham)
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tully, Jasper
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, Joseph (Barnesley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfield)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. William M'Arthur
 and Mr. Causton.

(5.20.) Main Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 216; Noes,
 158. (Division List No. 319.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitz Roy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Chas. William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
 Brodric, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
 Bull, William James
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Coddington, Sir William

Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Chas. Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, William Bromley
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Sir Michael (Leod. Univ.)
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim

Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry S. Edm'ds)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (Midd'x)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nderry)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robt. Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Heaton, John Henniker
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, F'v'ersh'm)
 Howard, J. (Mid. Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage

Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney Rt. Hn W G Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, WJH (Dumfriesshire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H A (Deptford)
Murray, Rt. Hn A Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham

Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
Rattigan, Sir William Henry
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj J E B (Isle of Wight)
Simcoe, Sir Barrington
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanark)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edw. Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)

Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir CEH (Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Asht'n und. Lyne)
Williams, Rt. Hn J Powell (Bir.)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhonda)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Asher, Alexander
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carew, James Laurence
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.

Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidst.)
Farquharson, Dr. Robert
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
French, Peter
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gillhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Sir William
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvon-sh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty

Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McKenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mather, Sir William
Mooney, John J.
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Chas. M. (Durham)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Westman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pickard, Benjamin
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur

Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Samuel S. M. (Whitechapel)
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)

Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, F. Freeman—(Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tully, Jasper
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, Jno. Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)

Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackman'an)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E.R.)
 Whiteley, Geo. (York, W.R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hu'dersfd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. William McArthur
 and Mr. Causton.

Ordered, That until the 8th August, Government business be not interrupted, except at half-past seven of the clock in the afternoon, under the provisions of any Standing Order regulating the Sittings of the House; and may be entered upon at any hour though opposed, and that in the conclusion of Government business each day Mr. Speaker do adjourn the House without Question put.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.

Clause 7 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority,' to insert the words—'shall, where the local education authority are the council of a county, have a body of managers consisting of a number of managers not exceeding four appointed by that council, together with a number not exceeding two appointed by the minor local authority. Where the local education authority are the council of a borough or urban district they may if they think fit appoint for any school provided by them such numbers of managers as they may determine.

"(2) All public elementary schools not provided by the local education authority shall have a body of managers consisting of a number of trust managers not exceeding four appointed as provided by this Act, together with a number of managers not exceeding two appointed:—(a) Where the local education authority are the council of a county, one by that council and one by the minor local authority; and (b) where the local education authority are the council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

"(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority, or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the

parent of a child who is or has been during the last twelve months a scholar in the school.

"(4) The 'minor local authority' means the council of any borough or urban district, or the parish council or (where there is no parish council) the parish meeting of any parish, which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority the County Council shall make such provision as they think proper for joint appointment by the authorities concerned."—(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(5.40.) SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he wished to move a drafting Amendment to the First Lord's proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, leave out 'body,' and insert 'Committee.'"

Under this Clause, as now proposed by the First Lord, it would be necessary for the County Council to appoint a "body of managers." Was it the intention of the First Lord that that body should be independent of the local education authority and have special rights of its own? In the rural districts they never heard of a "body of managers," but merely of "managers," and it would be much more simple to insert "Committee" instead of the "body."

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'body' and insert the word 'committee.'"—(Sir Edward Strachey.)

Question proposed "That the word 'body' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he thought the words of the Amendment as proposed by him, were more appropriate for what the hon. Gentleman

wanted, than the words the hon. Gentleman had submitted. A "Committee" would be part of the superior education authority. Now, the Government did not want that the managers should necessarily be members of the local education authority. On the contrary, there were a great many cases where they should not be; and the Amendment of the hon. Gentleman would exclude women from being appointed managers.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he was sorry that the First Lord had not seen his way to substitute "Committee" for "body." This was not a mere question of drafting; it went to the real substance of the Bill. What they wanted was that the managers should be subordinate to the education authority. Clause 8 said that the managers must obey all directions of the local education authority, and what they wanted to secure was, that the powers of the local education authority should be delegated to the Committee of managers. He wanted to know what was going to be delegated to the managers. It was true that the word "body" was used in the Act of 1870, but it was surrounded by all sorts of prescriptions not found in this Bill—the most important of which was that the rules contained in the third Schedule of the Act should be observed, that the managers must give specific notice to the local education authority of the business to be transacted, and that they should in all respects carry out the directions given to them by the education authority. But there was nothing in this Bill giving the same directions—more especially in regard to the denominational schools. He was anxious that the managers of all public elementary schools should act in subordination to the body which elected them. In London there were 450 boards of managers, but they had no initiative, only certain functions to perform prescribed by the London School Board, which was entirely responsible to the public. He hoped that some words would be added to the Clause, by which it would be provided that the managers should be subordinate to the local education authority.

Mr. A. J. Balfour,

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W. R., Morley) said that under Clause 12, the word "Committee" presupposed that the duties of the Committee would be delegated to them by the Local Education authority, and that they would naturally be under obligation to report to their immediate supreme authority all the actions which they had taken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he felt sure that there was no reason for continuing the discussion. He entirely agreed with the hon. Gentlemen opposite that the managers of the public authority's schools should be, so to speak, the absolute creatures of the authority. Probably additional words would be required to make the point clear, but this clause was not the place in which to do it. The word "Committee" would not do it. It must be done precisely and in terms, and probably the best plan would be to do it in the Schedule.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN (Montgomeryshire) said he simply rose to safeguard his position with regard to some subsequent Amendments that he had on the Paper. His view was that it was a mistake to regard the managers as the mere creatures of the local authority, and that they ought to have some amount of autonomy. So long as it was understood that when the Schedule came up for discussion views of that kind could be put before the Committee, he would offer no opposition to debating the matter at a later stage; but if, on the other hand, a division were taken now, he would not be able to support the Amendment.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said the matter raised was one of supreme and vital importance to the voluntary schools. Under the present law the managers were appointed under Clause 15 of the Act of 1870, and had no power except that delegated to them by the School Boards, but, under the present law, the School Boards had no power whatever over the voluntary schools. All that was now going to be altered, and in the future the managers of the voluntary as well as the public schools were to be under the absolute control of the public

authority. What he was afraid of was that, as the managers of those schools were now for the first time to be brought under the control of the local education authority, their relations with that body would be to a large extent governed by what was done in regard to the provided schools, for there was no other precedent. He desired to enter his protest against this arrangement, which he did not consider satisfactory.

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said that on Clause 6 the First Lord of the Treasury drew no distinction between provided and non-provided schools in this matter, and said that in both cases the control of the local authority would be absolute.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that with regard to secondary education he did not think the point was very important, and he did not think the object of the Amendment could be carried out by the words suggested, but the question subsequently raised was important and would have to be dealt with.

MR. BRYCE agreed that the question raised by the Amendment ought to be dealt with, but he did not think that the Schedule, as suggested by the First Lord, was the best place in which to do it. When on Clause 6, the right hon. Gentleman treated it as a matter to be dealt with in a clause; now he thought it ought to be dealt with in the Schedule. He (Mr. Bryce) thought a matter of such importance ought to be brought forward long before the Schedule was reached, and if the right hon. Gentleman did not bring up an Amendment himself before that stage, it might be the duty of the Opposition to do so.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) rose because he had a similar Amendment upon the Paper. He favoured the word "Committee" in the place of "Board" because in his opinion "Board" was too strong a word to use under the circumstances. They knew what a Board of Guardians was, but there were other Boards of which they were not so fond, for instance, the Board of Trade and the Board of Education. The word "body" was not so strong as

"Board," but at the same time it was too vague to be desirable. The word "Committee" was a good word, which suggested that this body of managers had real work to do. A Board of Managers might, in many cases, be in a purely honorary position. The kind of management with which they had to deal at the present time was slipshod, irregular and unsatisfactory.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Gentlemen's remarks have nothing to do with the Amendment before the House.

MR. WHITLEY said his point was that the word "Committee," which was the Amendment before the Committee at the present moment, conveyed to most minds first, a regular meeting time, second, a secretary to the Committee, and third, a proper record being kept by the Committee. Those were three points they ought to consider when making a new constitution for the managers.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the question was—Were these delegated authorities to be a Committee in the same sense as any other Committee of the local authority? Were they bound to report to the local authority?

*(6.0.) THE CHAIRMAN said that point could not arise on the present question.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE submitted with due deference that it was revelant, because if the managers were to be a Committee they would be bound to report.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that if the hon. Member was going to argue the matter on that ground it would of course cut out all subsequent Amendments which raised that particular question.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that if the Committee preferred to take the point later he did not object. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman had promised to introduce words to define what the position would be. He gathered that his view was that this body was of a purely subordinate character. There was nothing on the face of the Bill which made it clear what the

functions of the managers were. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to say whether he would introduce words making these functions clear.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE drew attention to the different views which had been taken of the effect of the Amendment, and said he was inclined to think that the word Committee would carry with it greater powers than the word body.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON thought that it was clear that some words ought to be introduced into the Bill to show how far the managers were subordinate to the educational authority, but his right hon. friend would be able to gather from the debate that it would not be satisfactory to the passage of the Bill that this matter should not be dealt with until they come to the Schedule. He thought some words should be introduced into this clause, or into some other clause, defining the actual relationship of these managers to the educational authority. If this matter was not dealt with until the Schedule was reached, it would be impossible to deal with Clause 8 until after that.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, W.) asked if the right hon. Gentleman had considered the meaning of his words when he said that he was going to make these managers the mere creatures of the educational Committee, which was itself the mere creature of the local education authority. He submitted that that would have a most extraordinary result.

MR. CHANNING said he understood the First Lord of the Treasury to say that some part of Section 15 of the Act of 1870 would, in some form or other, be ultimately made applicable to these managers. He would like to ask, in connection with that, whether it was contemplated that the provisions affecting the proceedings of managers in the third Schedule of the Act of 1870 would also be introduced into the Bill. It was important that the proceedings of these managers should be regulated in some definite and business-like way, and that they should be made responsible.

Mr. Lloyd-George.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said Clause 7, as it was originally drawn, incorporated Section 15 of the Act of 1870, which was perfectly well understood by all those who had been members of School Boards. The new form of the Clause contained no reference to that Section in which the question of tenure of office was dealt with. The terms of these appointments seemed to him, as the Clause stood, very uncertain. These people were to be appointed and dismissed at the pleasure of the authority. He, therefore, hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would introduce the word "annually." He was not particular that the period of appointment should be a year. What he wanted to secure was that the managers should be appointed at intervals, so that a member who did not discharge his duties properly might be relieved of them without difficulty. A Committee which was not subject to re-election was apt to lose its sense of responsibility.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the first word 'managers,' to insert the words 'annually appointed and.'"
—(*Mr. Alfred Hutton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR hoped that details on this matter would not be inserted in the Clause. The question was whether the subject should be dealt with by separate clause or schedule, or both. It might be necessary to have a clause in addition to the Schedule, but this was not the proper clause for dealing with the matter. As to the question of substance, he deprecated annual elections in these cases. He thought Section 15 of the Act of 1870 might be taken as a guide. He trusted the Amendment would not be pressed. He would take

care that Amendments were placed on the Paper embodying the views of the Government.

MR. BRYCE said that if the right hon. Gentleman would promise to bring up a clause, or suggest another clause on which an Amendment could better be made, the Committee might think it well to postpone the subject. But he considered the question of term to be one of great substance, and he did not think it was foreign to the present Clause.

DR. MACNAMARA testified to the value of an annual revision of managers. These words were valuable, but they were only one of the many conditions he hoped to see put into this Bill. There ought to be, if not annual election, annual revision, in order that those members who did not perform their functions might be called to account. It was important, before proceeding with the question of management, that the Government should consider how far it would be desirable to set forth generally the functions of managers set forth in Section 15.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN hoped the right hon. Gentleman, in arriving at a decision in the matter, would not be guided entirely by School Board experience. The managers ought to have in the rural districts a reasonable amount of autonomy of the local body.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) said it was amazing that the important point dealt with in the Amendment should have escaped the attention of the Government. It showed the imperfect nature of the Bill, and he hoped advantage would be taken of the Recess to put this and many other matters right. The sense of responsibility

was undoubtedly lacking where managers were appointed for three or five years, and nobody ever troubled to inquire whether they were regular or not in their attendance. Regular attendance was most important, as those who were not regular lost touch with the work.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) urged that the twelve months term of office should be adopted, so that the appointments should be revised year by year, in harmony with the invariable practice of all County Council and Municipal Authorities, and so bring the local representation on the management of the schools into constant touch with public opinion.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said that, as the Amendment of the First Lord covered the two Amendments he had on the Paper, he should not move them.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON thought it would be a very serious matter if this was delayed until the Schedule was taken.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that Clause 15, which was in the mind of the First Lord of the Treasury, was unsatisfactory as a settlement of the question, as its words were "from time to time." He, therefore, hoped his hon. friend would give those who supported the Amendment the opportunity of recording their votes in favour of its proposal.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER thought that a fixed date for the appointment of managers would be more satisfactory than a from time to time arrangement.

(6.23.) Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 104 ; Noes, 263. (Division List No. 320.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Brigg, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)

Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Burns, John
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Dalziel, James Henry

Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Emmott, Alfred
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles

Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harwood, George
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, William (Carn'vonshire)
Langley, Batty
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kenna, Reginald

Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mappin, Sir Frederick Thorpe
Mather, Sir William
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moss, Samuel
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pickard, Benjamin
Price, Robert John
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Rickett, J. Compton
Rigg, Richard
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbigh)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Runciman, Walter
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.

Strachey, Sir Edward
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Toulmin, George
Wallace, Robert
Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnesley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Alfred Hutton and
Mr. Trevelyan.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Waltham)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarras, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Frederick George
Bartley, George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boland, John
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (Lynn Regis)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carew, James Laurence
Carlike, William Walter
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Chapman, Edward
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clive, Captain Percy A.

Coddington, Sir William
Cogan, Denis J.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cranborne, Lord
Crean, Eugene
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Devonport, William Bromley-
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Faber, George Denison (York)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
French, Peter
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry

Flower, Ernest
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gardner, Ernest
Gilhooly, James
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby (Lincs.)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E. W. (B'ry SEdm'nds)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lrd G. (Midd'x)
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry)
Hammond, John
Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Haslett, Sir James Horner
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
Heaton, John Henniker
Henderson, Sir Alexander
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
Hout, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Fav'rsh'm)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hutton, John (York, N. R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)

Kimber, Henry
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Henage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hn W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Kean, John
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh.)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshi re)
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Gr'h'm (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Peel, Hn Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymau, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Rattigan, Sir William Henry
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Roche, John
 Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander

Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (I. of Wight)
 Simeon, Sir Barrington
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tully, Jasper
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
 Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashtonund. Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Lt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
 Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
 Wrightson, Sir Thomas
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
 Wyndham-Quin, Major W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

(6.37.) COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.), on behalf of the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Honiton Division of Devon, moved the insertion of words to make it clear that women could be elected to the managing bodies. It was so manifestly right that women should have their fair share in all educational arrangements that he thought there would be no difficulty in the acceptance of the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the first word 'managers,' to insert the words 'of both sexes.'"—(*Colonel Williams.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said what he understood to be the contention of his

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hon. friend was perfectly sound. He agreed that there ought to be a possibility of electing women upon these bodies. He would go further and say that, in a large number of cases, they should be elected; but he objected to the compulsory form of the Amendment, which might limit the choice of the Councils. As a matter of drafting he thought it was far safer to adhere to the well-known interpretation of the term "managers." There could be no doubt that under the Bill as it stood women were eligible.

MR. BRYCE said the question was one of the greatest possible importance. Personally, he was inclined to agree with the view of the right hon. Gentleman that women might be eligible under the Clause, but he would like to have an assurance on legal authority that there should be no doubt on that point. But even if that were so, the

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question yet remained whether it should not be made compulsory to appoint women. The Amendment proposed to make them necessary members of the Boards of Managers. He thought they certainly ought to be members of the Committees, but whether they should be necessary members of the Boards of Managers seemed greatly to depend on the size of the Boards. If a Board consisted of six members there might be a difficulty, but if there were to be ten or twelve managers he thought it ought to be made compulsory to appoint women. Even in the case of the smaller bodies there was much to be said in favour of having at any rate one woman; and if that point was to be argued, the present was the Clause upon which it should be done.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) pointed out that in a great many schools there were three departments—girls, infants, and boys—and in his judgment it was most desirable that women should find seats on the Boards of Managers of such schools. Assuming that they were eligible, it had to be remembered that the body which appointed the managers would consist almost entirely of men, and in practice it had been found that such bodies seldom recognised the claims of women. In regard to the Committee, he thought it should be made compulsory to appoint women as members of that body, and when the Clause dealing with that matter was reached, he should press that point most strongly. He was not prepared to say that it should be compulsory with regard to the Board of Managers of a small school, but, at any rate, it ought to be made clear that women were eligible. For many years, he said, others had held their tongues as to the position of women on School Boards, but he was told that if the point were raised in the Law Courts it was very doubtful whether it would be found that women had a right to serve. But now that a new authority was being set up, he was not prepared to leave the question in that dubious condition. He wanted the House to give the country a lead in matters of this description, and, instead of merely declaring that such and such things were possible, to say that in its judgment they

Mr. Bryce.

were desirable. They were bound to let children into the schools at five years of age, and more than half of the children attending the schools were of very tender age. In these circumstances there was work to be done in the schools which no one but a woman could do. There was work to be done with the female teachers which no man could understand. He wished it to be distinctly laid down that, in the opinion of the Committee, it was desirable that women should be elected as managers.

DR. SHIPMAN (Northampton) said he had an Amendment on the Paper with reference to this question which, he thought, would meet the case more completely than that just moved by the hon. Member. He understood the Prime Minister to say that, while he objected to making the appointment of ladies as managers compulsory, there would be no objection under the Clause as it stood to ladies being admitted. He begged to contradict that. If a test case were brought, he was certain it would be shown that women had no right to sit on a Board of management; and this was a good opportunity to make the point clear. Women in these matters suffered both from the disabilities of sex and of coverture. In a legal sense the married woman was not a personality; she was merged in the personality of her husband, and therefore he was anxious that neither sex nor coverture should be a disability for a seat on a Board of school management. He asked the hon. Member for West Dorsetshire whether he would withdraw his Amendment in order that he might move his own.

COLONEL WILLIAMS declined to withdraw his Amendment.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said it was impossible to accept the Amendment in its present form unless the Committee were of opinion that women in all cases should be upon these Boards of Managers. That might lead to difficulty in several cases in getting the best body of management available for a particular district. There might be many districts where it might not be found possible to get as good a manager of the female sex as might be procurable of the male sex. No one could doubt it; and it ought to

be left to those who appointed the Committee to select those who were best fitted for managing the schools. He agreed that where there was a woman qualified to act it was highly desirable that she should be appointed, because she was able to render services which no man, however highly qualified, could render. For this reason the Amendment ought not to be inserted. But as to whether women were eligible to serve as the Bill now stood, he maintained there was no doubt that they were. By the Interpretation Act it was provided that, unless the contrary appeared, words importing the masculine gender should include the feminine. Nor did he agree with the suggestion that there might be some disqualification at common law on the part of women. While women would be eligible as the Bill stood, he thought it would be highly undesirable that the provision should be made compulsory on a body of this kind.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said this matter had been argued in the House over and over again, but the opinions held by the hon. and learned Gentleman holding the office of Attorney General had been overruled in the court of law. It would not be in order at present to cite cases decided in the courts in regard to the eligibility of women, but he could show that the courts had upheld views which were diametrically opposed to the intention of the House of Commons. He could not vote for words which would make it compulsory to have women as managers, but he agreed that some words ought to be introduced which would make it clear that women might be appointed as managers. He preferred the Amendment of the hon. Member for Northampton to that now before the Committee.

COLONEL WILLIAMS said that after what had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman, he begged to withdraw the Amendment. [Several HON. MEMBERS: No, no!]

MR. BOUSFIELD (Hackney, N.) hoped the Government would look at this matter more sympathetically and carefully before they got to another stage of the Bill. He thought the proper place to make the eligibility of women

as managers clear, would be the Schedule. A school containing girls and infants should have a woman on the Board of Managers; without her, the authority would be essentially incomplete. Words should be inserted to indicate that wherever possible a woman should form at least one of the Board of Managers. He should like to hear from the Prime Minister that this would receive a little more consideration.

(6.55.) MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the Government had said as clearly as language could express it that they were absolutely in favour of giving the freest access on the part of women to every authority found in the Bill. That was their policy; and the question was what was the best legal method of carrying out the intentions of the Government. He was sure, however, that the best way was not, when they came to the word "Committee," "body," or "authority" for the Committee to say then and there that on each of these various assemblages a woman should be eligible. Let the Committee introduce words in the definition clause saying that for every purpose of the Bill women and men should be on an equality in these matters. That was not a legal phrase, but the proposal could be embodied in legal phraseology. There arose the further point, how far the introduction of words like these in the definition clause threw doubt upon other measures that had been passed. He was unable to gauge their effect, but if it be true that what the law officers had successively declared in the House upon this subject had as certainly been upset by the Law Courts as soon as the question came before them, then let the Committee guard against such a calamity by putting words in the definition clause of the Bill. If it be true that the position of women under other measures would be imperilled by the introduction of these words in the Clause, then the Committee ought to be careful as to what it was doing. But, as far as the Bill was concerned, he was ready to introduce words in the definition clause which would make it the avowed and declared intention of the Government absolutely beyond question as far as this measure itself was concerned.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE said that the point raised by the Amendment was not the inevitability of women being managers, but the possibility that the County Council should be enabled to appoint women on the Board of Managers. He thought the point would be much better taken on the next Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for the Flint Boroughs.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS moved as an Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'managers' to insert the words 'of whom at least one shall be a woman.'"

He contended that on the Board of Managers of six members, which controlled the education of boys and girls practically in equal numbers, there should be at least one representative of the girls. He entirely agreed with the hon. Member as to the difficulty of obtaining the election of ladies on these Boards, because the interests of the female sex were apt to be overlooked. But they all knew what magnificent work had been done in the past by lady members on the School Boards. This was shown in the case of the late Miss Bayliss, who, although her politics and her religion were entirely different from the majority of the people, was returned at the head of the poll for the London School Board. That was a great tribute to the work of women on School Boards. And the illustration could be repeated all over the country. The Committee ought to recollect that there were certain branches of education about which men obviously knew nothing, such as needlework, embroidery, and cookery. Then there were the other branches of domestic hygiene, in which girls were taught to have correct ideas of house management, and regarding which it was absolutely necessary that there should be at least one woman on the Board of Management, who might go to the schools and to whom the girls might speak quite freely and unreservedly. And then as regarded the sanitation of the schools, the inspector only paid a visit once or twice a year, but what they wanted was that they should have someone who should go over the school not less than once a week, to look after the ventilation and the proper accommodation provided for the children.

He himself had seen, over and over again, little children actually asleep on their benches because there was no proper ventilation of the school room. He appealed to the Committee to make it imperative that at least one woman should be on the Board of Management.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'managers,' to insert the words 'of whom at least one shall be a woman.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not wish to avoid any discussion on this particular point. He thought that there was a general feeling that much was to be said in favour of giving the strongest lead in the direction of framing a scheme for the education authority, by which women would be included on a Board of Management; but it was not desirable to make the appointment of women absolutely obligatory. To limit the choice in any way in a small country parish would be a mistake. If the Amendment were pressed, it would have to be altered; for if it were made obligatory that one of the body should be a woman, it must also be obligatory that one of the body should be a man.

MR. MCKENNA said that the First Lord's objection to the Amendment was that it would limit the choice of the managers of the schools. But he submitted that the difficulty would be not to find one woman in a parish for election on the school management, but to get six efficient men. He had not a shadow of doubt that, in practice, they would be able to secure the services of one woman who would be able to look after what was essentially woman's work.

MR. BOUSFIELD said that he thought this Amendment was undoubtedly in the wrong place. Unquestionably they would be very well advised in giving a lead to the local education authority to appoint a woman on the Board of Management. It seemed to him that every argument as to the indirect control of school by the education authority

applied with more force to the domestic control of the school. It was extremely desirable that a woman should be on the Board of Management, which had to do with schools where there were girls and young children.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) said that he should vote for this Instruction rather than none. If the question were left open, women would often be excluded where they ought to be appointed.

*MR. C. P. SCOTT (Lancashire, Leigh) said that the Vice President had told the Committee that he was anxious to give the strongest possible lead to the local authority to appoint a woman on the School Management Committee, wherever a suitable woman was available. He suggested the addition to the Amendment of the words "unless the Board of Education shall, in any particular case, otherwise determine." That would enable a local authority to represent to the Board of Education that a suitable woman was not available. It was most desirable that there should be women on these bodies, and he did not see how a lead was to be given to the local authorities unless some words were inserted. The importance of having a woman on bodies of this kind was admitted. Their presence was the more necessary because these bodies would have more control than formerly, and the central authority would be farther away. Owing to the parents not having power to elect, it was the more necessary that the Committee should insert some words in the Bill, and therefore he would move to add the words—

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! It is a most unusual thing to move an Amendment to an Amendment to the Amendment.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) thought the difficulty could be easily got rid of if the Amendment was accepted, and these modifying Amendments—for they were nothing else—were moved afterwards. His view was that women made ideal inspectors of schools: it was the one place where women were wanted. He was not sure that it would be to the advantage of education to put women on the education

authority, but in this particular case he thought directions should be given to the education authority to put women on these bodies by words being inserted in the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM JONES (Carnarvonshire, Arfon) asked, now that a definite position had been given to women as teachers, and by the Board of Education as inspectors, why the principle should not be carried to its logical conclusion, and women given a definite position as managers. In these schools they had classes of cookery and needlework, for which women were required as teachers, and women were also required to look after the women teachers and the social comforts of the children.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said that if the local authority were to elect the whole of the managers he would agree with the Front Bench that this matter should be left entirely alone; it ought to be left to their discretion whether they should appoint a woman or not. But if two-thirds of the councillors were to be appointed by outside authority, then this Committee ought to interfere and tell the authority in this Act what they ought to do. He would certainly support the Amendment if it was made clear that the local authority should appoint women managers.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) expressed the opinion that the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman was a perfectly reasonable one. The right hon. Gentleman had promised to introduce certain words in the scheme that should remove all doubts as to the nominating of women on these Education Committees. He opposed the Amendment, on the ground that the women teachers would obtain as much, if not more, justice from a Board composed of men as from a mixed Board.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

(7.26.) Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 194; Noes, 148. (Division List No. 321.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Anson, Sir William Keynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shroph.
 Bull, William James
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow
 Carlile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (W'rc'r
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Charles Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manc'r
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest

Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Lincs.
 Gorst, Right Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Grettton, John
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Ld. G. (Midd'x.
 Hamilton Marq. of L'nd'nderry
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hauley
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants Fareham
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh.
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire
 Morgan, David J. (W'chamst'w

Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederick Carne
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (I. of Wight)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hon. E. R. (Bath
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Smart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud
 Asher, Alexander
 Ashton, Thomas Gair

Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Boland, John
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Brigg, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson

Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremor, William Randal
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duffy, William J.
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Emmott, Alfred
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hazmond, John
 Harmsworth, R. (Leicester)
 Harwood, George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.

Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Langley, Batty
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leamy, Edmund
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McKeena, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mather, Sir William
 Mooney, John J.
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Newnes, Sir George
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Pickard, Benjamin

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Price, Robert John
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg'n, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tully, Jasper
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E.R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersfi'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Fenwick and Mr.
 Wm. Abraham (Rhondda)

(7.38.) Question put accordingly, | The Committee divided:—Ayes, 99 ;
 “That those words be there inserted in | Noes, 239. (Division List No. 322.)
 the proposed Amendment.”

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud)
 Asher, Alexander
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Bond, Edward
 Bousfield, William Robert
 Brigg, John
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Caldwell, James
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)

Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Dunn, Sir William
 Edwards, Frank
 Emmott, Alfred
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George

Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
 Hobbouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jacoby, James Alfred
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Langley, Batty
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 McKeena, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall

Mather, Sir William
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Newnes, Sir George
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Pickard, Benjamin
 Price, Robert John
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Rigg, Richard
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter

Schwann, Charles E.
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Taylor, Theodore Cooke
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg'n, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Phillips
 Ure, Alexander
 Wallace, Robert
 Walton, John Lawson (Leeds, S.)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Herbert Lewis and
 Sir John Brunner.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arkwright, John Stanhope
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitzroy
 Bailey, James (Walworth)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balcarras, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Bartley, George C. T.
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brown, Alexander H. (Shropsh.)
 Bull, William James
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. A. (Glasgow)
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carew, James Laurence
 Carile, William Walter
 Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Clare, Octavius Leigh
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Lord
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dickson, Charles Scott

Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield.
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Dorrington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duffy, William J.
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 French, Peter
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fison, Frederick William
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flavin, Michael Jos-ph
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Forster, Henry William
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Gilbooly, James
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby- (Linc.)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gretton, John
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Mid'x)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'n'd'r'y)
 Hammond, John
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frerick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth

Hutton, John (Yorks., N. R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Knowles, Lees
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Leamy, Edmund
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macdona, John Cumming
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 M'Kean, John
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh)
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Molesworth, Sir Lewis
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
 Moon, Edward Robert Percy
 Mooney, John J.
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mst'w)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptf'd)
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)

O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
 Palmer, Walter (Salisbury)
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Welles's
 Peun, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne

Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Remnant, James Farquharson
 Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Ridley, S. Forde (Bethnal Green)
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Roche, John
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ)

Thornton, Percy M.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Tully, Jasper
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton and Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

It being after half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

SOUTH AFRICA—COURTS MARTIAL COMMISSION.

[MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.]

(9.0.) MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg, Sir, to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, the composition of the Commission appointed to inquire into the sentences imposed by military Courts established under martial law in the South African Colonies and Protectorates. I do not think that any one who wishes to maintain the usefulness of the House, and to enable it to discharge its primary duty as a Grand Inquisition, will disapprove of the discussion of the constitution of the Commission appointed to inquire into the sentences passed under martial law in South Africa. The Commission is of a novel and extraordinary character. It is composed of the Lord Chief Justice of England, Mr. Justice Bigham, and Major General Sir John Ardagh. It is a matter for regret that the first important and far-reaching act of the new Prime Minister should not have been communicated and

explained to the House, whose servant the right hon. Gentleman is, or ought to be. Before I deal with the composition of the Commission I wish to read the terms of reference, which were communicated to the public Press instead of to the House. I know I shall not be in order in discussing the scope of the reference, but it is impossible for me to state my objections to the constitution of the Commission if I do not first put the House in possession of what the Commission is to investigate. These are the terms of reference—

“The King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of a Royal Commission to proceed to South Africa to inquire into the sentences imposed by Military Courts established under martial law in the South African Colonies and Protectorates; and to report whether, in the case of persons sentenced to terms of penal servitude and of imprisonment, and to the payment of fines, who are at the date of the Report of the Commission undergoing any such sentences, or have not paid but are then liable to pay any such fines, it is expedient, having regard to all the circumstances, that such sentences or fines should be remitted or reduced.

“The Commissioners will be empowered to examine the records of the proceedings, depositions, and other documents, and, in any special case in which they deem it necessary, to call before them persons whom they may judge likely to afford any information upon the subject of the Commission.”

My first contention is that Judges of the High Court should not be selected by the Government for a Commission of this character, which is largely political in its nature. I do not impugn the action of the Judges in accepting the position,

but I submit, with all respect, that I am well within my Parliamentary rights in condemning the Government for appointing them. There is no precedent for the appointment of a Lord Chief Justice in matters of this kind, which is to interfere with a matter of purely domestic political concern. It is, of course, well known that Lord Chief Justice Cockburn acted on the Geneva Arbitration, and Lord Chief Justice Killowen on the Venezuelan Arbitration, but I submit that these cases have no analogy whatever to the present one. I have sometimes been given a little credit for some knowledge of historical matters, but I say—and I challenge anyone to deny it—that there has been nothing approaching such a combination of judicial and political powers vested in a Lord Chief Justice of England since 1806, when Lord Ellenborough was invited to take a seat in the Cabinet; and on that occasion Mr. Perceval—afterwards Prime Minister—entered a strong protest against the appointment. From that day to this the Lord Chief Justice has been prevented from acting in a political capacity. The question whether the duties which the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Bigham have been appointed under this question to discharge are or are not actually political in their nature is not of so much consequence as whether they will be considered political both in this country and in South Africa. But, as evidence of the actual political nature of the appointments and of the actual belief of the “man in the street” on that point, I propose to quote from the leading articles in the *Standard* and the *Morning Post*—organs which support the Government, whose editors are the Ministerial fuglemen, and whose duty it is to create a factitious public opinion in favour of their policy. I begin with the *Standard*, which says—

“The appointment, which we announce this morning, of a Royal Commission to examine and report on the sentences passed by the Military Courts established under martial law in South Africa, is for obvious reasons a desirable, and even a necessary measure. There can be no question as to the qualifications of the Commissioners. Nobody would dream of disputing the competence of the Lord Chief Justice and of Mr. Justice Bigham, while Sir John Ardagh, who is joined with them, is not only a distinguished soldier, but has also had a very varied experience, of an administrative

character, as member of the Mission which delimited the Greco-Turkish frontier, as private secretary to Lord Lansdowne, and for a short time to Lord Elgin in India, and as British Delegate to the Peace Conference at the Hague. The delicate work to be done—which, while mainly judicial, is not without a political element—could not be in better hands than those of two eminent lawyers and a military officer who is at the same time a trained man of affairs. The Commission is not sent out to hear appeals from all the decisions of the Military Courts. To permit a general re-opening of questions already settled would be one of the worst possible ways of confirming the re-establishment of Peace in South Africa. The reference to the Commission is, however, sufficiently wide. It is to consider all sentences of penal servitude and fine in those cases in which the term of imprisonment has not been completed, or the fine paid, and to report whether ‘having regard to all the circumstances,’ it is expedient to remit or reduce the punishment. The Lord Chief Justice and his colleagues will, in fact, be employed to advise on the exercise of the Royal prerogative of mercy with an equal regard to judicial and political considerations.”

The *Morning Post* on the same day thus announces the appointments—

“The Government has appointed a Royal Commission whose task is, in short, to review the sentences passed by Military Courts in South Africa, and to review such sentences on the spot. No fault can be found with the constitution of the Commission. Even if the Lord Chief Justice of England were not the capable and the conscientious judge we all know him to be, his appointment would please and flatter the Boers, who do not as a rule quite comprehend that the head of the legal profession in England is the Lord Chancellor. To them a Chief Justice is a Chief Justice. Mr. Justice Bigham is a painstaking and an impartial executor of the law, and the South African loyalists, who will certainly examine his record with intense curiosity, are not likely to find in his political career any excuse for supposing that he will be disposed towards an undesirable leniency. Major-General Sir John Ardagh is a military man, whose knowledge of South African affairs should be pretty complete, for he represented the Government on the Expelled Aliens Commission, and has lately spent some months in South Africa. Without him, or without any officer of equal standing and equally practised in military law, the Commission would have been singularly incomplete. Lawyers have a tendency to dislike martial law. But martial law carefully exercised, as it was exercised during the late war, generally secures justice. The trials of Krutzing, Scheepers, and Cordua proved that before a Military Court composed of officers, who are all the more anxious to be just in proportion as they are unacquainted with legal procedure, the prisoner has more chances than he would get in a legal court of summary jurisdiction. Sir John Ardagh's presence on the Commission will probably prevent the legal members from laying too great stress on slight informalities or irregularities of procedure where substantial justice has

Mr. Swift MacNeill.

been done. At the same time, the appointment of such a Commission may be made the occasion for some plain speaking. For one reason we are intensely glad that it has been appointed. The fact that the sentences of the Military Courts are to be examined is in itself a proof that there is to be no weak general amnesty."

These are the statements of men who, sitting in editorial chairs, are the mouth-pieces of the Party and of the Prime Minister. It may be a small thing, but it is subsidiary to my argument, the absolute necessity for keeping the Lord Chief Justice outside political issues, that English statute law has made a special provision excluding the Lord Chief Justice, alone of all the judges of the land, from taking any part whatever in the trials of election petitions. I wish to ask the Prime Minister a question, and I regret that the right hon. Gentleman does not consider it his duty to be in his place. [At this moment the attention of the hon. Member was drawn to the fact that the Prime Minister was standing between the Speaker's chair and the Front Ministerial Bench.] I am glad to see the Prime Minister present, and may I add "Welcome, little stranger"? [Cries of "Order!"] I desire to know why, out of the whole body of the English judiciary—including the Lords of Appeal—the Government have chosen to appoint two learned judges who, as Members of the House of Commons, were members of the South African Committee, and were prominently distinguished by their hostility to the Boers. Lord Alverstone, as Attorney General, was a prominent member of the South African Committee, and Mr. Justice Bigham was even more prominent. One thing I must say—and it has been abundantly proved—that the crowning mistake of the South African Committee was that it did not insist on the production of the Rhodes-Hawkesley correspondence, in which the conspiracy of the Colonial Office would have been shown.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That has nothing whatever to do with the composition of this Commission.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Have I not a right to show that the judges were members of a Committee which prevented the production of documents which, if published, would have prevented the war?

*MR. SPEAKER: But the hon. Member must not make an attack on the judges.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am not attacking these two judges *qua* judges: I am making an attack on events in their previous careers, which unfit them, as I say, to serve on this Commission. I am not attacking them as judges in any way, but I am attacking the Government for appointing them—the appointment being one, in consequence of the incidents I have named, which is calculated to create distrust of the Commission in South Africa. I know South Africa. I know something of South African opinion, and every one there agrees that the war hinged on the non-production of this correspondence. The Lord Chief Justice (as Attorney General) and Mr. Justice Bigham prevented its production when Mr. Hawkesley would have been glad to produce it. Let me prove this by reading a few extracts from the examination of Mr. Hawkesley by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Monmouthshire. [The hon. Member proceeded to read extracts.]

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not justified in this. He is discussing the ground on which the letters should have been produced, and if he were permitted to do that he might read the whole evidence, and then say he objected to the two learned judges being members of the Committee. He must confine himself to the question of the composition of the Committee. In doing that he cannot go into transactions in which other gentlemen were engaged.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I intended to go into one transaction only, and that was the conduct of the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Bigham in suppressing this correspondence—an act which generated the war. The *Morning Post* says—

"South African loyalists will examine Mr. Justice Bigham with intense curiosity."

And adds that he is not likely to lean to the side of "undesirable leniency." To increase the confidence of South African loyalists, I may say that Mr. Justice Bigham has been hand-and-glove with the instigators of the Jauneson Raid.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is now attacking Mr. Justice Bigham in a way he is not entitled to do.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am not making an attack on that learned judge. I am attacking the Government for appointing him.

*MR. SPEAKER: In my opinion the hon. Member is attacking Mr. Justice Bigham, and he must not do so.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Very well, Sir. But I will, with your permission, read a letter sent on the eve of the sitting of the Commission by Mr. Justice Bigham to Mr. Hawkesley, the solicitor for Mr. Rhodes and the Chartered Company—

“Goldsmith Buildings,

“Temple,

“Aug. 7th, 1896.

“Dear Mr. Hawkesley,—Can Mr. Charles Leonard come down to the House of Commons tomorrow at five o'clock? The (South African) Committee meet privately at half-past four in Colonel Legge's room, and I would see Leonard immediately after the meeting breaks up.

“Yours truly,

“JOHN C. BIGHAM.”

This letter was read in this House by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil during the South African debate, when the conduct of the Government in not producing the Hawkesley correspondence was attacked; and on February 26th, 1900, the following reply from Mr. Justice Bigham was read—

“Feb. 26th, 1900.

“*The South African Committee.*

“To the Editor of *The Times*.

“Sir,—During the debate on Tuesday last, Mr. Thomas, M.P., referred to a letter of mine addressed to Mr. Hawkesley in August, 1896. As Mr. Thomas seems to think that the letter ought not to have been written, and as he has made his opinion public, will you allow me to say why it was written? I wished to know much more than I did then know about the alleged grievances of the Uitlanders, and I was told I could get full particulars of the complaints from Mr. Leonard. I was further told that Mr. Leonard was in London and that Mr. Hawkesley knew his address. I knew Mr. Hawkesley slightly, and therefore I wrote to him asking him to be good enough to procure for me an interview with Mr. Leonard. The incident took place long before the Committee

commenced its inquiry and before I had any idea that Mr. Leonard would be called as a witness.

“Very truly yours,

“JOHN C. BIGHAM.

“Newcastle-on-Tyne.”

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is abusing his privilege. After having obtained leave to move the adjournment, he is proceeding to open up the question of the Jameson Raid and the action of the South African Committee.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am not endeavouring to do anything of the kind.

*MR. SPEAKER: I accept the hon. Member's statement that he is not endeavouring to do it; but he is doing it, nevertheless.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: If I was, it was unintentional. I will generally wind up my case by saying that I regard it as highly objectionable for the Government to appoint two gentlemen who have taken a prominent part on one side in one of the most fierce racial conflicts ever known in South Africa. They are not persons to command the respect of the South African public, or to exercise any real or lasting influence of a healing nature on the disturbed condition of South Africa. As regards Sir John Ardagh, I do not wish to say anything, except that I hope that the Government will take his advice this time. He was the gentleman whose advice the Government did not take when, as Chief of the Intelligence Department, he told them all about the Boer preparations. I regard the association of a military gentleman with two legal gentlemen as a novel and improper method of administering justice, either politically or judicially. I think I have said sufficient to show that the constitution of the Commission is not such as one would have expected a Government, anxious to maintain peace between the two races in South Africa, to propose. I cannot discuss the scope of the inquiry, but I have stated what the inquiry is to be in general terms, because otherwise I would not have been able to pass the strictures which I

have thought it my duty, as a Member of the House of Commons, to pass on the composition of the Commission. What I had said tonight will be said throughout South Africa in a short time. The First Lord of the Treasury answered, very curiously a Question put to him some time ago as to whether there would be a general amnesty in South Africa. It was expected that there would be a general amnesty, but instead of that there is to be a Commission, consisting of two gentlemen whose leanings are well known, and a general officer; and, as far as I can see, there is to be no general amnesty or a desire to smooth away differences in South Africa. I would gladly say a great deal more, as, unlike the First Lord of the Treasury, I think that the first place in which strictures should be passed on the Commission is the House of Commons. I have made intentionally no attack on the members of the Commission; but I have attacked the Government for the composition of the Commission, as it is calculated to promote ill-will, disunion, and suspicion in South Africa, and to lower the character of the judicial bench. I beg to move.

(9.36.) MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to second the Motion of my hon. and learned friend. It would have been very convenient if, before we began this discussion, we had some statement as to the appointment of the Commission. It seems to me that the appointment of these gentlemen will be regarded as a sign of weakness abroad, as it is regarded as a sign of a bad conscience on the part of the Government at home. Why have the Government appointed this Commission if they do not believe that something requires revision in the action of these military courts? Let me examine who are the parties who are to compose this Commission. In the first place, let me associate myself very cordially with what my hon. and learned friend said—that there is no question that the two learned Gentlemen who have been appointed on this Commission are not fair minded men; the question is, whether they will be so considered by the Dutch population in South Africa. It seems to me to be a fatal defect

of judgment on the part of the Government that they have shown themselves totally incapable of placing themselves in the position of members of small nationalities. That is all the more remarkable because three or four Members of the Government are Scotchmen, and Scotland has been subjected in times past to the very ills to which South Africa has been subjected. We have had martial law in Scotland, and the memory of it rankles still. What is the position of Lord Alverstone, who is Chairman of the Commission, in relation to the present Government? Not only was he a member of the Jameson Raid Commission, but he was Attorney General at the time the war was initiated, and at the time these very Military Courts whose decisions are to be revised were set up. So far as the Boers are concerned, they will look on Lord Alverstone as the initiator of the very matters to be inquired into, and as one who may have advised the Government on those very constitutional questions that may have to be reviewed. In times past we had in Scotland a man of the name of Sir George Mackenzie. He lives in Scottish history as “Bluidy Mackenzie.” He was as courteous a gentleman as Lord Alverstone, but still it would have been highly inappropriate for the British Government at that time to have sent him to judge the drumhead Courts Martial of Claverhouse. That would have rankled for all time in the Scottish mind. As regards the particular matter with which we are dealing, supposing a noble member of the house of Cecil, whose zeal had outrun his discretion, had committed an indiscretion, how would it be liked if his case were to be revised by Mr. Kruger’s Attorney General? That is precisely the position we have got to deal with. Then as to Mr. Justice Bigham, I suppose one of his recommendations is that he is not very well known, except in connection with the Jameson Raid Inquiry. That, I think, was the first occasion on which he figured before the public, and it is certainly the only means the Dutch in South Africa have of judging him. I think that the selection of these two judges out of the judges on the English Bench and the Scottish

Bench, and Heaven only knows how many on the Irish Bench, is very unfortunate. Have they been appointed on the advice of the Premiers of Cape Colony and Natal? The Government have shown a singular predilection for following the advice of these gentlemen in preference to the advice of the House. One would like to know whether they have been consulted, and why the selection should have been confined to the judicial Bench at all. Are there not many men of learning and judicial acumen who might have commanded the respect both of the Dutch and the British in South Africa? I beg to second the Motion.

Motion made and Question proposed,
 "That this House do now adjourn."—
 (Mr. Swift MacNeill.)

(9.43.) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I must say that those of us who have listened to the speeches of the hon. Members will hardly see in them any justification for this most unjustifiable Motion. What is the question before the House? It is whether or not the small Commission appointed by the Government to inquire into the sentences given under martial law in South Africa is a competent Commission to decide the only question they have to decide—whether these sentences are contrary to law or contrary to military practice. With regard to the gentlemen who have been appointed on the Commission, we have been assured by the hon. Member who made the Motion, not on the faith of any statement of the Government, but a newspaper article, that these judges have been appointed to interfere in a largely political question. And in order to support that idea, a variety of citations have been made as to the conduct of these judges when some years ago one of them was sitting on a Committee to give an opinion on matters then before him. There has not been one thing quoted, with regard either to the Lord Chief Justice or Mr. Justice Bigham, which had anything whatever to do with the question of martial law. What would be the position of this House if any judge, having served in this House or outside it, was liable to have brought up against him, on

Mr. Black.

a purely legal question, the fact that at one time or other he occupied a Party position in this House? No one at this moment who is administering martial law in South Africa has any connection whatever with the Government. The officers who have been appointed have, according to the best of their ability, in a very difficult situation, carried out the work entrusted to them. When a number of men who are not trained lawyers are suddenly called upon for a certain number of months to administer a very difficult set of regulations, at great distances from one another, without any power of co-ordination with a central authority, it is obvious that there will be occasions in which larger sentences might be given than should have been given, and occasions in which the same sentences might be given in different cases, though if the whole of the evidence were reviewed legally it might not lead to the same result. I cannot imagine any two men who would more largely command the confidence of Parliament than the present Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Bigham when appointed to review sentences so given—not sentences given by their own colleagues or sentences for which the Government, to which the Lord Chief Justice undoubtedly once belonged, are in any way responsible. I do think that a Motion of this kind is the most far-fetched attack on these judges that could possibly be conceived. As to Sir John Ardagh, who has been associated with them, he happens to have a particularly acute knowledge of military law, and with that capacity, and with the experience he has already gained in South Africa, I have not the slightest doubt that, not only will he be of the greatest assistance to the Commission, but that he will command the confidence of those who are brought before him. I do think it is a great misfortune that we should be led into a discussion of this kind in respect of a Commission that is going out with purely pacific objects. If I may reply in one sentence to the hon. Member for Banffshire, I would say that his attempt to compare what is taking place in South Africa with what took place in Scotland a century and a half ago is a libel on those who have had to administer martial law during the past year and I have no doubt that there would have been a scene of almost unseemly rejoicing in Scotland if three such

men as we are now sending out to South Africa had reviewed the sentences passed under martial law in 1745. I do not answer this Motion at any length. I will not say it is brought forward deliberately to delay public business, but it has the effect of delaying public business. No opinion which has been expressed could possibly justify the Government in altering in the slightest degree the composition of the Commission, or in doubting for a moment the confidence in which it is held by the great majority of the country. The only effect of this discussion, which I hope is not intended, can be to create doubt in South Africa as to the competence and impartiality of men as to whose competence and impartiality the average Englishman would entertain no doubt whatever; and for that reason I would ask the House to reject the Motion.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): The right hon. Gentleman said that this was an utterly indefensible Motion. In that I do not agree with him, because I think it is a Motion that arises not unnaturally from the fact that the House of Commons has been kept really in ignorance of the appointment of this Commission and the purpose for which it has been sent. There has been no announcement made to the House of Commons of the existence of this Commission—we have had to gather it from the public Press; and I think that if the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues had taken a little more pains to take the House of Commons into their confidence they might have avoided this Motion. But, while I think that it is not unnatural for my hon. and learned friend to have raised the question, he has confined himself to the personal aspect of the question; and I am bound to say that in the personal aspect of the question I cannot follow him in what he has said. I do not think it is necessary at all for us to examine closely into the history of the three eminent men who have been appointed to serve on the Commission. I am satisfied myself that the intention, and probably the effect, of the Commission will be found to be in the direction of

peace and pacification in South Africa. I confess at once that I welcome the appointment of the Commission as an indication of that intention on the part of the Government, and I hope that it will be successful. When we come to the personality of those who are members of the Commission I part company from my hon. and learned friend. We know enough of the Lord Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Bigham in this House, and still more from our observation of their conduct in their judicial capacity, to be sure that they are not likely to do anything which would not justify the high confidence reposed in them. I do not think it is necessary for me to refer to the old story of the South Africa Committee or any of the other Commissions to which my hon. and learned friend has referred. I confess I do not think that anything can be gathered from what occurred then, or from any of the other circumstances to which he has referred, which can throw any discredit upon any one of the three members of the Commission. My hon. and learned friend has quoted passages from the public newspapers. The Government are not responsible for all the foolish things that day after day are published in the newspapers. I think that although, as I said at the beginning, it was not unnatural for my hon. and learned friend to raise the question, especially as the House of Commons has been kept largely in the dark upon the subject, yet I entirely dissociate myself from his view of the matter; and, although I have no responsibility in the matter, I can only say that this strikes me as a step taken by the Government which is entirely in the interest of the pacification of South Africa.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

(9.53.) Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 168; Noes, 122. (Division List No. 323.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allhusen, Augustus Hen'ry Eden
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John

Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Col. James Robert
Balcarres, Lord

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)

Banbury, Frederick George
 Barclay, George C. T.
 Bhowaggee, Sir M. M.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, W. Bromley-
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
 Flannery, Sir Portescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby- (Salop)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Grenfell, William Henry

Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Mid'x)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brighside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.)
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hant., Fareham)
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh)
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamst'w)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert

Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Prtyman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Guy
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Raech, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Kenwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rigg, Richard
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Sawes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, Wm. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Start, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Tollmach, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wil-on, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Abraham, William (Rhonda)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud)
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Bell, Richard
 Black, Alexander William
 Bolton, Thomas Dolling
 Brigg, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight

Cawley, Frederick
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
 Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert

Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Hammond, John
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.

Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leamy, Edmund
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kean, John
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George

Murphy, John
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbigha.)
Roche, John
Runciman, Walter
Schwann, Charles E.

Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore Cooke
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tully, Jasper
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Woodhouse, Sir J. I. (Huddersfield)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Captain Donelan and Mr.
Patrick O'Brien.

(10.5.) Question put accordingly, | The House divided:—Ayes, 64; Noes,
“That the House do now adjourn.” | 210. (Division No. 324.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dillon, John
Donelan, Captain A.
Doogan, P. C.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Gillhooly, James
Hammond, John

Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Horniman, Frederick John
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Leamy, Edmund
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Mooney, John J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)

O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tully, Jasper
White, George (Norfolk)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. MacNeill and Mr.
Black.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhonda)
Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Frederick George

Bartley, George C. T.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bhownaggee, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)

Chapman, Edward
Charrington, Spencer
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Lord
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)

Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mane'r
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penroze-
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmund
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby- (Salop
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Hall, Edward Marshall
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Midd'x
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert W. m.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Holland, Sir Wm. Henry
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
 Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
 Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 King, Sir Henry Seymour
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
 Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Llewellyn, Evan Henry
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lonsdale, John Brownlee
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
 Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Maconochie, A. W.
 M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walth'mstow
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Myers, William Henry
 Newdigate, Francis Alexander
 Newnes, Sir George
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
 Penn, John
 Pierpoint, Robert
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Price, Robert John
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Pym, C. Gny
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
 Ratcliff, R. F.
 Rea, Russell
 Reid, James (Greenock)

Renshaw, Charles Bine
 Renwick, George
 Richards, Henry Charles
 Rigg, Richard
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Runciman, Walter
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Samuel, Harry S. (Limehouse)
 Skewes-Cox, Thomas
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stone, Sir Benjamin
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Stuart, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
 Tollemache, Henry James
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Tritton, Charles Ernest
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 White, Luke (York, E.R.)
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whitmore, Charles Algernon
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wills, Sir Frederick
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

(Mr. W. LOWTHER, Cumberland, Pen-
 rith, in the Chair.)

Clause 7:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'authority'
 to insert the words 'shall, where the local
 education authority are the Council of a county,

have a body of managers consisting of a number
 of managers not exceeding four appointed by
 that Council, together with a number not
 exceeding two appointed by the minor local
 authority. Where the local education
 authority are the Council of a borough or urban
 district they may, if they think fit, appoint for
 any school provided by them such number of
 managers as they may determine.

"(2) All public elementary schools not pro-
 vided by the local education authority shall
 have a body of managers consisting of a number
 of trust managers not exceeding four appointed
 as provided by this Act, together with a number
 of managers not exceeding two appointed (a)
 where the local education authority are the
 Council of a county, one by that Council and

one by the minor local authority; and (b) where the local education authority are the Council of a borough or urban district, both by that authority.

"(3) One of the managers appointed by the minor local authority, or the manager so appointed, as the case may be, shall be the parent of a child who is or has been during the last twelve months a scholar in the school.

"(4) The 'minor local authority' means the Council of any borough or urban district, or the Parish Council or (where there is no Parish Council) the Parish Meeting of any parish, which appears to the County Council to be served by the school. Where the school appears to the County Council to serve the area of more than one minor local authority the County Council shall make such provision as they think for joint appointment by the authorities concerned."—*(Mr. A. J. Balfour.)*

Question again proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

(10.20.) DR. SHIPMAN thought that the Interpretation Act of 1889 was only intended to shorten Parliamentary language, and was not intended to confer rights or take away disabilities, consequently if the right hon. Gentleman, the Attorney General, was relying on that Act he was leaning on a very broken reed. He contended that the words of his Amendment were necessary to make it clear that either married or single women could be appointed to the Committee of Managers. He begged leave to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the word 'managers,' to insert the words 'neither sex nor coverture to be taken as a disability.'—*(Dr. Shipman.)*

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought that he had explained to the House that these words were absolutely unnecessary. There, however, seemed to be some doubt on the point dealt with by the hon. Member, but he thought they should deal with the difficulty as it arose, not by the way of the present Amendment. Under these circumstances he asked the hon. Member to withdraw his Amendment, because it only covered one particular case. There were other Committees and bodies dealt with in this Bill, and he thought they would do better to

have some words analagous to those in the Act of 1889, because he considered that they ought to make it perfectly clear that no disabilities attached to the *status* of women in these educational objects.

MR. BRYCE said that so far as he recollected the proposals of this Bill, the only place where this question arose was with regard to the Committee appointed by the local authority. If there were other cases, perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would mention them. If his hon. friend accepted the right hon. Gentleman's suggestion, and allowed this matter to be dealt with in another proposal, would that also cover the Education Committee? Many of them felt strongly that there ought to be a positive direction upon this matter.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that he entirely agreed with what the right hon. Gentleman had stated, but he did not wish to commit the Government at present as to what they would do upon the case he had suggested. All he said was that the proper way to deal with it would be to postpone this Amendment, and let them either in some general statute in some general terms lay down this principle so that no loophole or doubt could exist. He thought it would be more practical to have a broad provision which he proposed to put at the end of this Bill. He thought it would be much better to adopt this course, because the question of interpretation had really become an intolerable nuisance.

*DR. SHIPMAN said that after the assurance which the right hon. Gentleman had given him he begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said he should like to say that he believed some other hon. Members, as well as himself, on the Government side voted with some regret against the Amendment which was moved before the Adjournment, not because they thought it was undesirable that women should be allowed to act as managers, but because they thought the compulsion involved made the Amendment

impracticable. In accepting the assurance that words would be introduced, which would make it quite certain that women would be eligible both for the new authority to be constituted and for the Board of managers, he, for one, did not commit himself to the acceptance of this assurance as being all that they wished to see done under his Bill. When the proper time came he should be prepared to endeavour to make the service of women on the Education Committee of the local authority compulsory.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CHANNING said it seemed to him quite clear from the previous discussion that the number of managers for the different districts ought not to be stereotyped, but the number ought to be flexible and variable according to the wants and character of the locality. It was necessary to have some elasticity, and it was best to leave the number to be determined by the county or local education authority. One area might want a much larger number than another, from local circumstances and distances, or again, it might require managers of more varied types and qualifications than another locality to secure real efficiency, while a smaller parish might have no such difficulties. It was for these reasons that he had placed this Amendment on the Paper. He thought that if the number fixed was less than six it might not prove to be a workable Board. He did not bind himself to six, and another number might be selected, and five had been suggested as being more suitable. To him six appeared to be a convenient minimum and the maximum might be left variable to be fixed by the County Council.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the second word 'managers,' to insert the words 'to be fixed by the Council, and in no case to be less than six, and of this number.'"—(*Mr. Channing.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

Sir William Anson.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR did not think that the Bill would be improved by adopting either of the two proposals contained in the Amendment. The minimum might be very inconvenient, as an education authority might have difficulty in finding the requisite material. It was possible in such circumstances that the result of the Amendment would merely be to dilute the body of managers. He also considered that the machinery by which the hon. Gentleman proposed to attain his end was not convenient.

(10.35.) MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN thought the right hon. Gentleman had not made out any case against this Amendment. It was obviously absurd that they should have the same principle applied to a large and a small parish, and there ought to be some elasticity. The County Council were not always competent to choose local men. It might be competent to fix the number of representatives, because the County Council would be able to take into consideration whether they were dealing with a scattered parish or an area within a ringed fence where good or bad means of communication existed. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would withdraw his opposition to this Amendment.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE contended that they could not consider this question satisfactorily without also considering the question of grouping the schools.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was not proposed that the limit of six should apply to grouped schools.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that in the case of a rural parish of 15,000 inhabitants with eight board schools, six managers would be a very small number.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR pointed out that this point was dealt with later on in an Amendment, to line 25 by an Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for East Somerset which provided—

"Notwithstanding anything in this section the local education authority may group any schools provided by them and, with the consent of the managers, may group any schools not provided by them, under one body of managers, consisting of such number and appointed in such manner and proportions as shall have been agreed upon between the local education

authority, the minor local authorities, and, in the case of schools not provided by the local education authority, the managers of the schools concerned, or as may be determined so far as relates to the minor local authorities, in default of agreement, by the Board of Education.

"Any such arrangement for grouping shall remain in force for three years."

Therefore, there was no limitation in dealing with grouping.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON said he thought that applied to denominational schools.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The number of managers for groups of schools is unlimited.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not see why there should be a fixed limit. He could imagine cases where six managers might be too many, and other instances where four would not be enough. He could not see why the actual number should not be left to the discretion of the local authority. He did not know why the right hon. Gentleman thought there was so much virtue in the numbers fixed.

MR. WHITLEY said the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for East Somerset did not meet the point which had been raised.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: We are only on provided schools now.

MR. WHITLEY said if they did not take this opportunity of raising this question they would lose a great deal of force when they came to deal with the other schools. In the case of provided schools there was a greater need for an increase in the number above six. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to give to the managers whatever powers he could in order to enable them to work in a satisfactory manner. In a great industrial county they were never sure of business men being able to attend at a particular time, and it was highly desirable that there should be a sufficiently large number of managers to ensure a quorum sufficiently large to prevent the business being done in a hole-and-corner way.

SIR WILLIAM HARCOURT (Monmouthshire, W.) said he did not quite understand the words. Supposing that a County Council appointed three, what was to happen then? Would the other bodies appoint two or one? If they had five, four, or three, what was to be the distribution between the respective authorities? He would suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that the consideration which induced him to fix a maximum should also induce him to fix a minimum, so that there would be security of having a working body in the event of any of the members being prevented from attending the meetings by illness or business.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he would point out how these words were intended to work. The Government did not propose that there should necessarily be six; but if a County Council did not choose to appoint four, they must be content not to have the majority of four to two which the Bill permitted. On the other hand, if the Parish Council did not desire to appoint two, the Bill did not compel them to do so. As to the maximum, what was urged upon him was that there were cases in which a maximum of six was insufficient in large country districts to deal with the day-to-day problems of the schools. Such cases he believed to be rare. Personally he believed a body of six was probably more efficient to deal with large problems than a body of greater number. But if there were such cases in which there ought to be more than six, he was inclined to think they would be met by an Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Wigan, providing that where the circumstances of the school required a larger body of managers the Board of Education might make an order increasing the total number of managers, so, however, that the number of managers was proportionately increased. That Amendment provided adequate elasticity for increasing the number above six where the conditions of the district required it.

MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) said that on the question as between the fixing of a maximum and a minimum, he very much preferred the minimum. He believed that the cases in which the minimum limit would cause inconvenience would be very much less than those in

which the maximum limit would cause inconvenience. He did not see why there should be a limit in the case of an ordinary County Council. Their conditions were much more varied than in the case of Urban District Councils and Borough Councils, and that was a reason why they should have a much more free hand than a Borough Council or an Urban District Council. The only difficulty in giving them a free hand seemed to be in regard to the proportionate number to be appointed by the Council, and the number to be appointed by the minor local authority, but that could be easily dealt with.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) said that the circumstances of different places must necessarily differ, and it was therefore desirable to give elasticity and variety to the bodies of managers to be appointed. In some cases there would be no difficulty in collecting a meeting, while in others, where the population was greatly scattered, it would be very difficult to collect the same number. The Clause should give power to vary the number of managers according as the circumstances of each case might require.

MR. BRYCE said the First Lord of the Treasury did not seem to have laid enough stress on certain points concerning this question. A County Council was a distant authority. A small number of managers had been sufficient hitherto where the School Board had been near. The Education Committee would not be always meeting; it would be at a great distance, and a great deal would have to be done by the managers on the spot. It would be extremely inconvenient if managers were not able to convene meetings. There should be a strong body of managers, and in no case should the quorum be less than three. In view of the difficulty of getting a quorum, he doubted whether in any circumstances the body of managers should be less than six. There was a great deal to be said for having a fixed minimum of six, and, as regards the maximum, for allowing the local authority to fix it. In a large number of cases one school would serve a large parish, and where they would certainly

want more than six managers. Why in these cases should the local authority be put to the trouble, as the hon. Member for Wigan proposed in his Amendment, of making special application to the Board of Education? Was there any reason for fixing a statutory maximum at all. His hon. friend was on firm ground when he proposed to give the local authority the power of fixing the number. On a review of the whole circumstance of the case he thought it would be found that that was the much more practical method of dealing with the question.

MR. HENRY HOBHOUSE (Somersetshire, E.) thought it right to say that the County Councils Association were unanimously of opinion that they ought to have a free hand in regard to this matter, and not be tied either by a statutory maximum or a statutory minimum.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE regretted that the First Lord of the Treasury could not accept an Amendment of this character. He pointed out that the County Council had already power to increase the numbers of parish councillors and district councillors, and he saw no reason why they could not do the same with regard to a body of management on a question which was within its own control. He agreed with the hon. Member for the Stretford Division that the most important part of the Amendment was that of fixing the minimum. Now that they had done away with School Boards it was desirable to prevent the public schools falling under a system of one-man management. The effect of allowing a school to come under the control of one man was bad. They did not get public discussion under that system. They got one man running his own fads, and, he was afraid, his own predilections. The managers to be appointed were really to be the substitutes for the School Boards. They were simply corporate bodies representing the ratepayers more or less directly. At present the minimum number of a School Board was five, and why should they have a less minimum for the body of managers? The right hon. Gentleman said there were some parishes where

they could not get six capable men. He had a much poorer opinion of English parishes than hon. Members had on the Opposition side of the House. Besides it was a liberal education for them. There was nothing better in a parish than to pick out six men and give them the management of education in that parish. The real danger in a little parish was this. They were certain to have one most powerful man in the parish who would be on the body of managers. He might be the rector or the squire and if he was one of three there would not be the same independent and free discussion as if he were one of six. If the right hon. Gentleman wanted to secure a good system of education and to interest the people in it, the more members they had on these bodies the better.

*Mr. CHANNING said that he should like to remind the First Lord that earlier in the evening he stated that he proposed to follow the third Schedule of the Act of 1870 in the main, with regard to the regulation of the meetings and proceedings of the managers. In that Schedule the quorum was fixed at three, and that obviously contemplated that the numbers of bodies of managers should be at least, or more than, five or six persons.

Mr. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W. R. Keighley) said that in his view they ought rather to increase than decrease the number. The School Boards required competent bodies of managers to get their work done, and it would be equally necessary that the new education authority should receive similar assistance. There were the School Attendance Committee, the Financial Committee and four or five other Committees, which would have to be appointed for any school district of any size. And then when they came to groups of schools there would be necessarily a larger number of Committees to carry on the work. He thought,

with the hon. baronet the Member for Wigan, that the number of managers ought to be increased.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.) said that the principle of the Amendment was that they should not lay down the hard and fast line that the number of managers should be six, and only six. The Committee should remember that they were dealing not only with small rural parishes, but with schools in County Municipal Boroughs, and Urban Districts. Was it possible that in such localities, with a rapidly increasing population, and where there were already four or five schools, to believe that a body of managers, limited to six could do the work properly? He made a last appeal to the First Lord of the Treasury to re-consider this question. If the right hon. Gentleman insisted in pressing this limit, he believed it would hamper very seriously the effective operation of educational reform.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that he had already stated that he was willing to accept a larger number on the school management where the schools were grouped.

Mr. WHITLEY asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he should insert in the Schedule a provision that the quorum of the managers appointed by the local education authority should not be less than three. It was quite possible that under the Clause as it stood there would be the Church majority in the County Council which would appoint a clergyman, who would appoint his curate. That was not what Nonconformists wanted. He trusted that there would be a small modicum of popular representation on the management of these schools.

(11.18.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes, 266. (Division List, No. 325.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)	Brigg, John	Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Allen, Charles P. (Glou., Stroud)	Broadhurst, Henry	Causton, Richard Knight
Atherley-Jones, L.	Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)	Cawley, Frederick
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.	Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson	Craig, Robert Hunter
Bell, Richard	Bryce, Rt. Hon. James	Cremer, William Randal
Black, Alexander William	Buxton, Sydney Charles	Dalziel, James Henry
Bolton, Thomas Dolling	Caldwell, James	Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)

Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Farquharson, Dr. Robert
 Fenwick, Charles
 Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herb. John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Sir William
 Harmsworth, R. Leicester
 Harwood, George
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Langley, Batty
 Layland-Barratt, Francis

Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mather, Sir William
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Moulton, John Fletcher
 Newnes, Sir George
 Norman, Henry
 Partington, Oswald
 Paulton, James Mellor
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, Alfred E. (Cleveland)
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Price, Robert John
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Robson, William Snowdon
 Runciman, Walter
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)

Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Tennant, Harold John
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glam'rgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E.R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
 Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsf'd)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Mr. Channing and Mr.
 Humphreys-Owen.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arnold, Sir William
 Ashton, Thomas Gair
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balcarres, Lord
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
 Banbury, Frederick George
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beach, Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hicks
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Beresford, Lord Charles Wm.
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boland, John
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Brookfield, Colonel Montagu
 Bull, William James
 Burdett-Coutts, W.
 Butcher, John George
 Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
 Carile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.)
 Cayzer, Sir Charles William
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Chapman, Edward
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clancy, John Joseph

Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Coghill, Douglas Harry
 Cohen, Benjamin Louis
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colomb, Sir John Charles Ready
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Viscount
 Creane, Eugene
 Cripps, Charles Alfred
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, W. Bromley-
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Digby, John K. D. Wingfield-
 Dillon, John
 Donelan, Captain A.
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Faber, George Denison (York)
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Ferguson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Man.)
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fielden, Edward Brooklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Flannery, Sir Fortescue
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Flower, Ernest

Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Henry William
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Gilhooly, James
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'mlets)
 Gore, Hn. G. R. CORMSBY. (Salop)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Gretton, John
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
 Hambro, Charles Eric
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midd'x)
 Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry)
 Hammond, John
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Henderson, Sir Alexander
 Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
 Hoxier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.

Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnstone, Heywood (Sussex)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Kewick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawson, John Grant
Leamy, Edmund
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareh'm)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leve-on-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lowe, Francis Sir William
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lytelton, Hon. Alfred
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W. G. Ellison
Macdonna, John Cumming
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeil, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McArthur, Charles (Liverpool)
McKean, John
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfries-sh.)
Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
Moon, Edward Robert Percy
More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walth'mst'w)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)

Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Myers, William Henry
Newdigate, Francis Alexander
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n)
Peel Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Penn, John
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Major Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Richards, Henry Charles
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Roche, John
Round, Rt. Hon. Charles
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert

Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tufnell, Lieut. -Col. Edward
Tully, Jasper
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton Un. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willox, Sir John Archibald
Wills, Sir Frederick
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wrighton, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said the object of the Amendment he now moved was to reverse the number of representatives to be appointed by the major local authority and by the minor local authority. The Clause proposed that the County Councils should appoint not more than four managers, and the minor local authority not more than two. He proposed to reverse that. He believed that his proposal would not only find considerable acceptance in the House, but in the country at large. If the majority of the members were to be nominated by the county authority, that would naturally deprive the locality of a large share of the interest it would otherwise take in the management of its own schools. Small localities were intensely interested in their local affairs. Hon. Members would find that a member of an Urban District Council would be

reported at greater length in the local papers than the First Lord of the Treasury himself. They would also find that the interest that would be taken in the schools of a particular locality by the County Council would be almost infinitesimal as compared with the interest taken in them by the local authority. He would, therefore, urge on the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of giving the local authority a larger share in the management of the schools. The object of the right hon. Gentleman was no doubt to prevent a conflict of authority between the major and the minor authorities, but he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that any such objection was entirely theoretical. His hon. friend who was at the head of the secondary education system in Wales would agree with that statement. In every county in Wales the county authority only appointed a fourth or a

fifth of the local governing body for the schools, and according to the right hon. Gentleman there ought to be constant conflict between the local governing body and the county authority; but as a matter of fact that was not the case. Questions arose between the two authorities, but they were invariably settled amicably; and there was no instance of the two authorities coming into sharp conflict. In Wales they had enlisted local sympathy on behalf of the schools, and they had succeeded in doing that without exciting any conflict of jurisdiction whatever. There was another question raised by the Amendment. He proposed to leave out the words "not exceeding four" in order to insert "of whom one-third shall be." He thought that it would be more convenient that the proportion to which each authority would be entitled should be fixed rather than that an arbitrary number should be laid down. He trusted the right hon. Gentleman would accept the Amendment, and he could assure him that the objections to it were theoretical and not practical.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In lines 2 and 3, to leave out the words 'not exceeding four,' and insert the words 'of whom one-third shall be.'"—(*Mr. Herbert Lewis.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment."

**Mr. A. J. BALFOUR* said he entirely concurred with the hon. Gentleman that the common sense of Englishmen was such that probably no distribution of power as between the County Councils and the minor authorities would necessarily or even in any very considerable percentage of cases produce a deadlock; but the hon. Gentleman appeared to forget that after all the County Council was to be the supreme authority in all matters of education, and, that being so, it was only reasonable to give them a majority. The hon. Gentleman said that the County Councils would appoint members of their own body who would be indifferent to the wants of particular localities. He did not believe for a moment that they would do anything of the kind. They would, of course, select, whenever they could, persons on the spot who had cognisance of the

district. In all the circumstances of the case, it seemed to him that it would be extremely foolish, after the Committee had decided that the County Council was to be the supreme authority in all matters of education, to hand over to an inferior body the appointment of the majority of the managers, which might, although he did not think they would, come into conflict with the superior authority.

DR. MACNAMARA said that many obstructions to educational progress in the country had been stated during the discussions on the Bill, such as lack of money, lack of co-ordination, and lack of popular management; but there was one obstruction which had not yet been mentioned. It was the most serious obstruction of all, and one which Parliament could not remove. That was the lack of interest on the part of the people in the schools. He spoke as an ex-school teacher, and he said that if the Bill did anything in the way of increasing popular interest in education, then, indeed, it would be a great educational reform Bill. But it seemed to him that the proposal of the Government was calculated to diminish the interest taken by the people of the locality in their schools. The existing lack of interest was notorious, and much to be regretted. Speaking in June 1898, the Vice President said that it was responsible for the gross irregularity of an appreciable section of the children, and for the early age at which the children went into the labour market. Let them contrast that lack of interest with the interest taken in education in Germany, where the poorer classes were alive to the value of education, and had sympathy with the highest educational aims. The only way to create a similar atmosphere in this country was to give the people a direct interest in the management of their schools. He did not put it forward as a Party question, but merely as a means of interesting the people of the locality in their schools. There might not be very much difference between the proposal of the Government and the proposal of his hon. friend, but the latter was more likely to stimulate interest on the part of the people. He hoped the First Lord of the Treasury would reconsider his decision, and allow each locality to select a majority of the members to manage its own schools.

Mr. Herbert Lewis.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said that, in the interests of education, he would join in the appeal of his hon. friend to the right hon. Gentleman. When the Bill began to work, there would be many districts where education had been well managed, where the local authority was greatly interested in it, and where the community generally had been proud of its schools. In those cases, he thought that there possibly might be friction. It was quite possible that the County Council might be out of touch and out of harmony with the political complexion of a particular district, and in that case the interposition of Council nominees might be likely to lead to friction, which would not conduce to the progress of education. That might be avoided by the acceptance of the present or a similar Amendment. They should, as far as possible, endeavour to keep up local interest in schools, and they should not do anything which might be regarded as a snub to the local authority. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman to consider very carefully whether he could not gain all he wished by giving the local authority a majority of local managers, and allow the County Council to send in a sufficient number to keep the control in their own hands. As the County Council had control of the money, they would be bound to have control of the local authority also.

*MR. EDWARDS (Radnorshire) said he desired to support the Amendment, and he did so all the more readily because of his own experience in Wales. He failed to see what objection there could be to giving a locality the power to choose two-thirds of the local managers. The Prime Minister said a vigorous minority could do a great deal. This implied a conflict between the representatives of the County Council and of the local body, although it could only be on subordinate questions, because the County Councils would have supreme control of the schools. But if the matters in dispute would be unimportant, that was all the more reason why the opinion of the locality should be allowed to prevail. If it were good to have an expression of local opinion at all, then it ought to be trusted altogether; and if, on the

other hand, local opinion were untrustworthy, it ought to be left alone. Hon. Members opposite were anxious that the children should be educated in accordance with the desires of their parents; but the Amendment afforded an opportunity of carrying out that idea, because it would allow the parents to show, in a practical way, how they wished their schools to be managed. He, himself, was in favour of trusting the parents, but hon. Members opposite appeared to be afraid of that. The board schools were under popular control, and they had given better results than the voluntary schools; and he thought that, from an educational point of view, there was nothing to be feared in accepting the Amendment. They had been told that the smaller School Boards had done badly, but that was because their areas were too small. The Bill, however, remedied that, as the County Council was to be the supreme authority, and only details of management would be dealt with by the governing body, on which he thought the locality ought to have a majority.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said that the importance of the Amendment lay in its influence for exciting local interest in education. With reference to the argument of the First Lord of the Treasury that friction might be caused between the two authorities concerned, it should be remembered that the duties which the managers would have to perform would be of an unimportant character, unless the Council elected to hand over to them the choice of teachers. Apart from that, the duty of the managers would be to merely watch the ordinary working of the schools, and the subjects on which there could possibly be a quarrel would be very few indeed. It seemed to him that the argument of the right hon. Gentleman was very weak as compared with the great importance of giving the locality some interest in its schools. In the real interest of education, they should get the people to feel that the schools were their own. The local education authority would have the opportunity of picking out persons in a comparatively humble position who were interested in education, but the County Council would be utterly unable to make any selection of persons who had not hitherto been known for

their interest in education. The advantage of the School Board system was that it brought out a class of persons who otherwise would not have been brought to the front. The County Council would have to select men by types. They would have no other standard, and they would select a clergyman, or the squire, or the Nonconformist minister, or the local land agent, because of their position, and not because of their interest in education. There was no other way of finding out persons who were interested in education, except by giving the locality power to select a majority of members.

(12.0.) **SIR BRAMPTON GURDON** said he cordially supported the Amendment, because the proposal of the Government put on the County Councils a burden greater than they could bear. It was impossible that the County Councils could make themselves sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances in each parish to enable them to appoint proper representatives on the Board of management. The people to be elected should be on the spot; and who could better select them than the Parish Council? He was happy to say that in his part of the country there was not the lack of local interest to which the hon. Member for North Camberwell had referred. In his own parish the Parish Council appointed a small sub-committee to manage the schools; and that was the proper course to follow. A representation of a third would be quite sufficient for the County Council.

MR. MILD MAY (Devonshire, Totnes) said that in many country villages, where an interest was taken in education, there was a difficulty on the part of the people in reconciling themselves to the abolition of the School Boards, especially where there were working men representatives on them. The only way in which they could be reconciled was by the suggestion that perhaps it might be possible to introduce an Amendment into the Bill, by which the best men on the country School Boards might find places on the Managing Boards of the schools. That had been brought to his notice over and over again in his own constituency; and he hoped that the

Government might see fit to consider the possibility of accepting the Amendment.

MR. DILLON said he had noticed that several hon. Members had assumed that there might be friction between the managers and the local education authority. The Committee were in a difficulty in discussing the matter, because they did not know precisely what the relations between the Board of managers and the local authority were to be; but in so far as they had any light on the subject, it seemed to him impossible that friction could arise. The Prime Minister stated the other day that the managers would be the servants of the local authority; and how, then, could there be friction? The right hon. Gentleman referred to Section 15 of the Act of 1870 as the principle by which the Government intended to be guided; but that section gave power to the School Boards to delegate any of their powers to a body of managers to be appointed by them. Was that power to be conferred on the local authority?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said only as regarded the four members.

MR. DILLON said that what he understood was that the whole of the managers were to be the servants of the education authority to carry out its decrees. Were they to understand that the men appointed by the local authority were to carry out the wishes of that authority, and that the other members were to be independent? If the members to be elected by the minor authority were to be independent of the major authority, then, no doubt, the Amendment meant a great deal, because friction would be possible; but if the managers were to be the servants of the education authority, he could not see where the friction could arise; and he was, therefore, inclined to strongly support the Amendment.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE said that the County Councils would have full financial control of the schools; and he himself could not imagine how any serious conflict could possibly arise. Whether the number of managers was great or small, the control of the County Council would be exercised. On the

Mr. Trevelyan.

other hand, the real difficulty would be that the County Council would, in many cases, be regarded as being a long way off. The more they were in touch with the locality, and the more they could work through persons on the spot, always having this tight financial control, the better, and not the worst, it would be for the County Council. He regretted that this part of the Bill was not based on the principle of entrusting the local administration to some local authority, whether the Parish or Urban Council, and placing the whole under the financial control of the County Council. There was much prejudice with regard to the Rural Councils. They were said to be composed of farmers who were hostile to education. He did not admit the truth of that statement, but even if it were the case, was it not likely that, just as working men would be interested in education by having the management placed in their hands, so a stronger public interest in education would be created in rural districts by these duties being placed on the Rural Councils? The weakness of the small School Boards had been their extreme poverty, but directly the financial control was given to the County Council that difficulty would be removed, and an immense improvement would be effected in the whole system of local administration, by the mere fact that the financial control was taken away from the smaller area and put upon the larger. He hoped that in some way the local element with regard to school management would be strengthened, and he believed that if the right hon. Gentleman would accept an Amendment in the direction he had suggested, the progress of the Bill would be greatly facilitated.

(12.20.) MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said the interruption of the First Lord to the speech of the hon. Member for East Mayo had thrown a new light on this question. It was news that the managers would be divided into two classes, but it was now possible to understand why the First Lord anticipated conflict. Four of the managers would be creatures of the major authority, and the remaining two would be critics of the other

four. It was desirable that the people of a locality should take greater interest in education. The only question for discussion seemed to be as to which of the two bodies was the more likely to suggest men able to look after the education of a district. Was it the authority meeting twenty miles away, or the authority which knew the people living in the district? If the Committee were really in earnest in their desire to get managers who knew the needs of the locality, the only way in which that object could be secured was by allowing the local authority to elect the men. In many districts there were School Boards consisting of five persons. If the local authority was reduced to selecting two, there would be a considerable surplus of men who had for years been devoted to the education of the district. He submitted that the authority should have the right to elect at any rate, four, so that the talents of these men might be utilised. It was really absurd that a borough of say 9,500 inhabitants should be able to elect only two representatives, while the County Council at a distance elected four.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud) thought that if the Committee could be polled, probably 75 per cent. would agree that the great stumbling block in the way of education was the indifference among the masses of the people, and that the greatest reform they could achieve would be to create a greater interest in the elementary education of the country. If the right hon. Gentleman would accept this Amendment there really seemed to be a chance of something being done for the good of education. It was frequently said that interest in education did not exist in the county districts, that five-member School Boards were utterly hopeless, and that nothing would be done by such bodies. To disprove that he instanced the case of a small School Board, of which he had knowledge. That Board was founded eight years ago to take over two voluntary schools. The population was 960, and they rated themselves at £3 per head for building purposes. They set to work and improved the average attendance

from 99 to 160. That, he thought, was a good sample of excellent work being done where local interest was excited. If the right hon. Gentleman would keep in mind that the main object was to induce people to take an interest in education, and that this could be done by giving local authorities—who, after all, were in close touch with their constituents—the right to elect a considerable proportion of the local managers of the schools, he would be doing a great work for the benefit of elementary education.

MR. BROADHURST said that, being a voter in the division, he had taken great interest in the educational work referred to by the hon. Member for North Norfolk. In Cromer for the last seven years, they had had a School Board, a number of the members of which were working people who had devoted themselves to the cause of education. They had one member of the County Council—an exceedingly good representative in a way, but he was elected because he had the time and could afford to travel fifty miles on County Council days to discharge his duties as a councillor. What interest would the people of Cromer have in this new educational scheme when the management of their schools was transacted many miles away? The local interest would be entirely destroyed. If they could induce the Prime Minister to accept this Amendment and allow the residents of a small township to elect four managers so as to retain their personal interest, the continuation of the progress they had made during the last seven years would be secured. How could this be secured under the Bill as it stood, because the whole thing would be abolished? This was not a theological difference or a question of retaining the power in the hands of one particular denomination. Surely this local interest in educational work ought not to be destroyed, and if the Prime Minister would only detach himself from prejudicial associations on his own side, he felt certain that he would be the first man to see the necessity and value from a national point of view of continuing local interest, especially in educational affairs.

Sir Charles Allen.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it had been argued that if the Amendment were not adopted popular interest in education—which they should desire to uphold—would be destroyed. Neither in Germany nor in Scotland, the two places where interest in education was strongest, and of the longest growth, did it in the least depend on popular election. In Scotland it was of an old historic growth, and existed long before the era of School Boards. They had no right to assume the County Councils were going to behave in so idiotic a fashion as to ignore the best men in each locality to do this work. Were they to believe that when they had got five efficient managers for such a place as Cromer that the County Council was going to ignore these gentlemen whom the hon. Member for Leicester had referred to, who had had great educational experience, and go outside the limits of Cromer to some distant parts of Norfolk and ask other gentlemen to do the work? Besides, if the Amendment were adopted there would be a danger of conflicts between the County Council and the Board of Managers. He hoped the Committee would come at once to a decision on the point.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said the right hon. Gentleman had made it perfectly clear that this was not a Committee of the County Council, but a perfectly independent body, and the only control the County Council would have over it would be that the four nominees of the County Council might be changed. The First Lord of the Treasury had said that the County Council was not a body which was likely to do very foolish or fatuous things, but was that really the question? If the County Council did not know the people who resided in the locality they could not appoint the best men. If the right hon. Gentleman knew how County Councils worked, and if he had had any experience of the difficulty they experienced in picking men suitable to represent a locality, he would not support the doctrine he had put forward. Could the right hon. Gentleman point out a single instance where a County Council appointed the majority upon any local body? In Wales the majority was appointed by the locality. The County Councils

appointed representatives, but there was hardly any case where they appointed a majority. The only case he knew in which the County Council appointed a majority was in regard to the River Conservation Board, and he asked anybody if they regarded that as a satisfactory body? On that Board men were appointed who did not know the locality, and, as a rule, one man got up and nominated the whole body, with the result that it was generally left to the local landowners. With this experience before them, why should they decline to follow the precedent of the Welsh County Councils. The success of this educational system would depend upon the quality of the men and women appointed as managers. They would be entrusted with the most important duty of appointing teachers and fixing their salaries. Upon the salary depended the quality of the person who would apply for the post, and, therefore, the whole success of the schools would depend upon the kind of managers who were appointed. Even in the large county like Glamorganshire, in some of the rural districts, they had a great difficulty in getting men to come to the County Council meetings on account of the distance. Often they had to go to the neighbouring town for a representative, with the result that they did not get men who knew the locality, and they were selected purely because the district knew them as good business men, and because they were in general sympathy with the political views of the inhabitants. Would it not be much better to leave it to the Parish Councils, who knew the best men, and who had the confidence of the locality, to appoint the managers? Two or three qualifications were wanted in a Board of Managers. Were the members of the County Council the best people to pick out men with local knowledge, educational experience, local government experience, and business experience? The County Council could not pick out four men in a parish who would be the best for the purpose. He thought the right hon. Gentleman was wrong when he talked about friction. He agreed that on the whole it was

better that there should not be friction, but there was a certain kind of friction which did good. They would have a locality demanding a larger share of the grants than the County Council were prepared to concede to it. There would be friction on that account, but that was healthy friction. On questions of rivalry with respect to staff and equipment there would also be friction, but that was the best thing in the world for improving the standard of the schools. Another kind of friction might arise in this way. Supposing the County Council was of one political or religious complexion, and they had within the area of their jurisdiction a parish or town of 10,000 of a different political complexion. There they might have a Liberal majority on the Board of Managers administering the education of a district which might be Conservative and Church. It might be the other way about. The result would be that there would be friction of the worst sort. The right hon. Gentleman had said that this was not a political matter. Why then did he not leave it open to the Committee to decide?

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda) urged the necessity and the desirability of retaining in the locality an intelligent interest in the management of the schools. In the part of the country from which he came the efficiency of the education given had increased, as the interest of the people in education had increased. If they decreased the interest of the people in the appointment of managers so would their interest in and the efficiency of education decrease. He hoped the Amendment would be agreed to.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

(12.55.) Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 179; Noes, 121. (Division List No. 326.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Augustus Hy. Eden

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William

Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)

Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (L'ds
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Chas. William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
 Brodbrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, W. Bromley-
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Maj Evans (T'rH ml'ts
 Gore, Hn G. R. C. Ormsby (Sal'p
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred

Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hamilton, Rt. Hn Ld. G. (Midd'x
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Haslett, Sir James Horner
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlth, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop.
 Keswick, William
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
 Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt. Hn W. G. Ellison
 Macdona, John Cumming
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, Jn. Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamst'w
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hn A. Graham (Bute
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicholson, William Graham

Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renwick, George
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (I. of Wight)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
 Thornton, Percy N.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lient.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir CEH (Sheffield
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Col. C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashtonund. Lync
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
 Abraham, William (Rhondad)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc. Stroud
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Black, Alexander William
 Boland, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James

Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph

Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duffy, William J.
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 French, Peter
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)

Fuller, J. M. F.
 Gilhooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hammond, John
 Harwood, George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Labouchere, Henry
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lough, Thomas
 MacDonaldell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Kean, John
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mather, Sir William
 Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
 Moses, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norman, Henry
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)

Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donald
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Court enay T.
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William M'Arthur.

(1.8.) Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the proposed Amendment." The Committee divided:—Ayes, 170; Noes, 126. (Division List No. 327.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Anson, Sir William Reynell
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Joceline Fitzroy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Beckett, Ernest William
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Chas. William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Bond, Edward
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V C W (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
 Canborne, Viscount

Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, William Bromley
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
 Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manch'r)
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Foster, Philip S. Warwick, S. W.
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'm'l'ts)
 Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Goulding, Edward Alfred
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Roland
 Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Midd'x)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)

Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Fav'rsh'm)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jameson, Major J. Eustace
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Keswick, William
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareh'm)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Lyttelton, Hon. Alfred
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonna, John Cumming
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagn, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)

Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
 Pease, Herbt. Pike (Darlington)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Platt-Higgins, Frederick
 Pretzman, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Rankin, Sir James
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renwick, George
 Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)

Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
 Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lanca.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Colonel Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)

Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
 Wylie, Alexander
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Abraham, William (Rhonda)
 Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
 Black, Alexander William
 Boland, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Buxton, Sydney Charles
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Causton, Richard Knight
 Cawley, Frederick
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randall
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
 Dillon, John
 Doogan, P. C.
 Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
 Duffy, William J.
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 Ffrench, Peter
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Michael (Lond. Univ.)
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gilhooly, James
 Goddard, Daniel Ford

Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.
 Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
 Hammond, John
 Harwood, George
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hn. Charles Seale
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Holland, Sir William Henry
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Labouchere, Henry
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McKean, John
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Mather, Sir William
 Middlemore, John Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Morley, Charles (Breckshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norman, Henry
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Malley, William

O'Mara, James
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Westman D.
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbigha.)
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William M'Arthur.

MR. BRYCE said they had been in this Chamber for nearly twelve hours. There had only been one comparatively brief interval, and most of them were beginning to feel that their faculties had been so over-taxed by the exertions

they had made during the last eleven hours that they were hardly in a fit condition to carry on the discussions further. He thought the discussions that evening had been eminently pacific and reasonable, and the speeches had been short and relevant.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston): Oh, oh!

MR. BRYCE said that if the hon. Baronet the Member for Preston had been present during the whole of the evening he would have found it impossible to point to a single irrelevant speech. It was quite true that discussion did not always bear fruit, but he was sure that the First Lord of the Treasury did not wish that the discussions should take place when they could not be reported. The questions they were considering were of great importance, and they could not be reported if they went on longer. [Cries of "Oh, oh!"] As the right hon. Gentleman must wish that the same pacific spirit should be maintained, he thought he would see that it would be in the interests of the Bill, and more especially to the passage of this Clause, that he should now consent to allow them to go to bed. He moved to report progress.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again."—(Mr. Bryce.)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he had no desire to put any undue strain upon the intellectual faculties of hon. Members opposite, but he thought the Committee would admit that it was only reasonable under the circumstances that they should finish the first portion of the Clause. He

would not ask the Committee afterwards to enter upon the more controversial question contained in the next sub-Section, but he thought they should finish this paragraph before adjourning, so as to begin the second paragraph on Wednesday. He would consent to report progress as soon as the first Amendment to the second sub-Section was reached. They all admitted that the next sub-Section raised difficulties, but the difficulties in the first sub-Section had now been for the most part surmounted, and what he desired was that they should proceed to finish this part of the Clause in order that they might start with the second sub-Section on Wednesday. He did not think this was unreasonable, and he hoped the suggestion would be accepted.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he desired to call the Prime Minister's attention to the fact that there were certain hon. Members who served on Committees who would have to be in attendance at twelve o'clock in order to take part in the proceedings of the Committee, and under those circumstances he thought it was most unreasonable to expect hon. Members to continue the sitting. He had not the slightest sympathy with anything in the shape of obstruction, and he was quite as anxious to see this Bill passed into law as the Vice President of the Council. It was not, therefore, for the purpose of delaying the progress of this Bill that he appealed to the Prime Minister to have some consideration for those who had to attend Committees.

(1.27.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 119; Noes, 169. (Division List No. 328.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P. (Gloucester, Stroud)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph

Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter

Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale
Helme, Norval Watson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.

Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
 Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Labouchere, Henry
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Acerington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 Lough, Thomas
 MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
 MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 M'Kean, John
 M'Kenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Morley, Charles (Breckshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norman, Henry

O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
 Power, Patrick Joseph
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.

Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Strachey, Sir Edward
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan, Charles Philips
 Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr.
 Herbert Gladstone and
 Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
 Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
 Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
 Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
 Arrol, Sir William
 Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
 Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
 Bailey, James (Waltham)
 Bain, Colonel James Robert
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manchester)
 Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
 Balfour, Rt. Hon. Gerald W. (Leeds)
 Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christchurch)
 Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
 Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
 Beresford, Lord Charles William
 Bignold, Arthur
 Bigwood, James
 Blundell, Colonel Henry
 Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
 Brodbrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
 Butcher, John George
 Carlile, William Walter
 Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
 Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
 Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
 Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worcester)
 Charrington, Spencer
 Churchill, Winston Spencer
 Clive, Captain Percy A.
 Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
 Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
 Compton, Lord Alwyne
 Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
 Cranborne, Lord
 Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
 Crossley, Sir Savile
 Cubitt, Hon. Henry
 Dalrymple, Sir Charles
 Davenport, William Bromley
 Dickson, Charles Scott
 Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
 Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
 Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
 Duke, Henry Edward
 Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
 Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart

Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
 Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
 Fergusson, Rt. Hon. Sir J. (Manchester)
 Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
 Finch, George H.
 Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
 Fisher, William Hayes
 Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
 Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
 Gardner, Ernest
 Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
 Gordon, Maj. Evans (T. H. M. L. S.)
 Gore, H. G. R. (Cormish, Salop)
 Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
 Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
 Grenfell, William Henry
 Greville, Hon. Ronald
 Guest, Hon. Ivo Churchill
 Guthrie, Walter Murray
 Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G. (Middlesex)
 Hanbury, Rt. Hon. Robert Wm.
 Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houldsworth, Sir Wm. Henry
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Hudson, George Bickersteth
 Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Keswick, William
 Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)

Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
 Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Middlemore, Jno. Throgmorton
 Mildmay, Francis Bingham
 Milvain, Thomas
 Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
 Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Puvion, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renwick, George
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)

Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount

Vincent, Col. Sir CEH. (Sheffield)
 Walker, Col. William Hall
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Ta't'n
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-and-Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald

Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

(1.45.) MR. HERBERT LEWIS said he moved the Amendment standing in his name in order that County Councils should have better opportunities of consulting local feeling. The Bill practically provided that the nomination of managers should be in the hands of the county councillor for the district, and this was placing a very large piece of patronage in the hands of a single individual. It was not right for one particular individual to have the power of appointing a majority of that body which have hitherto been known as the School Board for the district. He thought that was an argument which would commend itself to the common sense of the Committee as a whole. His suggestion was that the minor authority should have the right to submit eight names to the major local authority. The minor authority had the best experience to enable them to make an impartial selection. He did not suggest that they should have the actual selection and appointment, but he thought they should be entitled to frame a list and submit it to the County Council in order that they might select four names. The result would be that they would secure the appointment of a better class of men, who would be more likely to attend to their work and do it more efficiently than others who might be selected from outside districts. He thought this alternative contained in his Amendment was infinitely the best thing to do in the interests of the schools, and he hoped the Government would accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'four,' to insert the words 'selected from eight names submitted by the minor local authority and.'"—(Mr. Herbert Lewis.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL ON EDUCATION (Sir JOHN GORST, Cambridge University) said this Amendment was inconsistent with the spirit of what had already been decided. The Committee had already determined that the majority of the Board of Managers should be appointed by the local authority, and to introduce this extremely complicated Amendment would give the minor authority a sort of control which would be inconsistent with the spirit of the decision to which the Committee had already come. He did not think the Amendment would be of any use whatever, because no doubt the local authority, before making its appointments, would consult local feeling in the matter; and he contended that the making of a formal recommendation of eight names from which the local authority must select four was contrary to the decision which the Committee had already come to, and it would introduce more complicated machinery into the management of the schools.

* MR. CHANNING said he thought that this Amendment was a moderate suggestion as a compromise between the view they wished to support on the previous Amendment and the views of His Majesty's Government. This Amendment and the preceding one, which had been discussed at some length, affected his own constituency perhaps more than any other point remaining in the Bill. He should like the right hon. Gentleman to throw a little more light on the meaning of various parts of this Bill as bearing upon this question. The First Lord of the Treasury made no allusion whatsoever to Clause 15, and what was contemplated under that Clause in this Bill. Under that clause there might be the largest devolution of

duties and powers of the County Council in respect of elementary education to the minor authorities. What they now had to decide depended largely on what would really be done under Clause 15. The position in his own division was practically this. He had in his constituency a number of minor local authorities, and in each district they had a highly efficient School Board. There would be in these districts a large number of men and women highly qualified by experience on the School Boards, and especially men who directly represented labour, who would make most efficient managers of schools. He thought the Committee had reason to complain of the attitude of the Government towards this and the previous Amendments. In the Bill of 1896 it was actually contemplated that these minor authorities should compulsorily be made the authority to appoint the managers to deal with the schools. Even with the present Bill, destructive as it was of the local autonomy which was of such vital importance to the efficiency of education, secondary education had been conceded to the minor authorities. And as to elementary education, a considerable possibility of delegation to these authorities was contemplated. It was extremely hard, therefore, that the Government should refuse to assent to the moderate proposal now before the Committee. The Amendment in no sense gave a dictatorial power to the minor authority. It merely claimed the right for the local authorities, who knew the qualifications of suitable persons, to suggest a list of names from which the selection might be made, and it was very unreasonable that the claim should be denied.

MR. BROADHURST said that the Vice President seemed to think that the proposal would involve an innovation in local government. That was not at all the case. As a County Councillor, how was he to know the best men for this purpose in the 700 parishes of Norfolk? A list from the local authorities would be of immense assistance. For instance, a constable had to be appointed for every parish. The Parish or Urban Council sent up three or four names to the Petty Sessional Court to assist the

magistrates in their selection. As a magistrate, he assured the Committee that the list was of the greatest possible assistance. If that was the case in one petty sessional division, how much more would it be so where 700 parishes were concerned? The Amendment did not suggest that the local authority should appoint the men, but simply that they should submit a list from which the selection might be made; and, speaking from many years' experience of District, Urban, and County Council and magisterial work, he thought the list would be a real aid to the County Council.

MR. CORRIE GRANT pointed out that in the case of a parish sending one County Councillor, if there was no list the practical effect would be that that County Councillor would have a very considerable voice as to who were to be the four. It was, therefore, desirable that some suggestion should be made to the Council, and the County Council would probably send down to ask for suitable names. Under these circumstances he thought this was a most reasonable Amendment, and he should certainly support it.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said they wished the minor local authority to have the right to name the people who would be the most efficient managers of their schools. He could hardly think the Vice President of the Council was serious when he said that this Amendment would complicate the educational machinery of the district. Nothing could be simpler than to select eight names, one or two of which he hoped would be women, and the County Council could easily select from them a Management Committee. He thought the County Councils would have the utmost difficulty in obtaining a sufficient number of managers to form these Committees. He knew one great area where the County Council would have to select 5,000 managers to satisfy the scheme proposed by the First Lord of the Treasury. He thought the Committee would agree that the selection of 5,000 managers was a Herculean task. That was an impossible number for a County Council to select without the assistance of the minor local authority.

Mr. Channing.

He thought this was not an unreasonable effort to improve the Bill by combining local feeling and interest for the efficient management of the schools in the various localities.

(2.3.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 109 ;
Noes, 161. (Division List No. 329.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Chas. P. (Glouc., Stroud)
Atherley-Jones, L.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Caldwell, James
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Craig, Robert Hunter
Crean, Eugene
Cremor, William Randal
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Joseph
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dillon, John
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie

Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
Helme, Norval Watson
Horniman, Frederick John
Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
MacDonnell, Dr. Mark A.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mansfield, Horace Rendall
Morley, Charles (Breconshire)
Moss, Samuel
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Pearson, Sir Weetman D.

Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, F. Freeman (Hastings)
Thomas, J. A. (Glamorg'n, Gower)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Mr. Herbert Lewis and
Mr. Runciman.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Augustus H'nry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Beresford, Lord Chas. William
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter

Cavendish, V. C. W. (D'rbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (W're'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Capt. Percy A.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Lord
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Diskrael, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fellows, Hon. Ailwyn Edward

Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (M'nc'r.)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'rH'm'l'ts)
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. L'rd G. (Midd'x)
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, Frederick Leverton
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightsid)

Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
Kewick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (M'nm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
Leveson-Gower, Frederick, N.S.
Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Macartney, Rt. Hn. W.G. Ellison
Macdonald, John Cumming
Manners, Lord Cecil
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)
Melville, Beresford Valentine
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, G. (Huntingdon)

More, Robert Jasper (Shropshire)
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. A. (Depton)
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Rt. Hn. A. Graham (Bute)
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nicol, Donald Ninian
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Pretymann, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renwick, George
Ritchie, Rt. Hn. Chas. Thomson
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, James Parker (Lanarkshire)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)

Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sturt, Hon. Humphry Napier
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warr, Augustus Frederick
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Willow, Sir John Archibald
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wodehouse, Rt. Hn. E. R. (Bath)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir William Walrond and
Mr. Anstruther.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) moved—

"To insert after 'Council,' in line 3, the words 'two of whom shall be members of that Council.'"

He said this Amendment raised the question of popular control. If they could secure public control, he was satisfied that this Bill might become a workable measure, but if they failed to secure adequate public control he was satisfied that it would create considerable agitation in the country, and the education question would remain unsettled. What he proposed was that of the members who were appointed by the County Council on these local boards two should be members of the County Council. The Councils had to be elected, and the people would, therefore, place increased confidence in the managing bodies if a moiety of them were members of the Councils. They would feel that they had some direct control over the managing bodies.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'Council,' to insert the words, 'two of whom shall be members of that Council.'"—(Mr. Joseph A. Pease.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it had been urged that the representation of the locality as apart from the County Council should be strengthened and increased. It was evident that if this Amendment were adopted it would have the opposite effect. This would compel the County Council to ignore, so far as some members of the body were concerned, the locality in which the school to be managed was situated. He thought it extremely probable that in the large number of cases the County Council or the education authority would appoint persons of local experience, but they would be absolutely prevented from doing so by this Amendment. This would be a limitation in the wrong direction. Whatever other limitations they put on the County Council, they ought not to prevent them selecting the persons who were cognisant with the locality.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE trusted that his hon. friend would not press this Amendment to a division. It would not serve the purpose he had in view.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE said that in practical working it would be found that by grouping a large number of small parishes together, a body of six or eight individuals might be appointed as managers who could do a great deal more than look after the schools in one parish.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said he did not think the objection of the hon. Member for Carnarvon was serious. The Councillors on the bodies of managers would bring the County Council into conjunction with the local managers. In a few cases there might be a certain amount of grouping, but he did not think very much of that would be necessary to make the Amendment perfectly workable.

MR. RUNCIMAN asked his hon. friend to withdraw the Amendment. He held that it would be quite impracticable for a County Council like that of the West Riding of Yorkshire to appoint two of their number to be members of every managing Committee.

MR. HUMPHREYS-OWEN said that in counties which were smaller and less populous than the West Riding of Yorkshire it would be quite possible for the County Council to provide members for each of the managing bodies. He thought if the Amendment were accepted it would be

quite possible to introduce on the Report stage words excepting such counties as the West Riding.

MR. JOSEPH A. PEASE said he would bow to the feeling of the House and ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave, withdrawn.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley), in moving the next Amendment, said it seemed to him only reasonable that there should be three members on the Board of Management elected by the minor local authority, and he hoped the Prime Minister would see his way to accept the Amendment.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, to leave out the word 'two,' and insert the word 'three.'"—(*Mr. Joseph Walton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'two' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he hoped his hon. friend would not press his proposal, which, although technically in order, was asking the Committee to revise what had already been decided upon.

(2.33.) Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 155; Noes, 102. (Division List No. 330.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Aug'tus H'nry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Joceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Beresford, Lord Charles Willi'm
Bignold, Arthur
Bigwood, James
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Butcher, John George
Carlile, William Walter
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derb'shire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, J. Austen (Worc'r)
Charrington, Spencer
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cranborne, Viscount
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Denport, William Bromley-
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward

Durning-Lawrence, Sir Edwin
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart-
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manch'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, George H.
Finlay, Sir Robert Bannatyne
Fisher, William Hayes
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick SW)
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred'k
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r Hml'ts)
Gore, Hn. G. R. C. Ormsby (Salop)
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Grenfell, William Henry
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hamilton, Rt. Hn. Lord G. (Mid'x.)
Hanbury, Rt. Hn. Robert Wm.

Hare, Thomas Leigh
 Harris, Frederick Leverton
 Hay, Hon. Claude George
 Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
 Hobhouse, Henry (Somerset, E.)
 Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
 Houlst, Joseph
 Howard, John (Kent, Faversham)
 Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
 Kenyon-Slaney, Col. W. (Salop)
 Keswick, William
 Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
 Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
 Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monmouth)
 Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
 Lawson, John Grant
 Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
 Leigh-Bennett, Henry Currie
 Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N. S.
 Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A. R.
 Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
 Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
 Long, Rt. Hon. Walter (Bristol, S.)
 Lowe, Francis William
 Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
 Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
 Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
 Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. G. Ellison
 Macdonald, John Cumming
 Manners, Lord Cecil
 Massey, Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
 Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire)

Melville, Beresford Valentine
 Milvain, Thomas
 More, Robt. Jasper (Shropshire)
 Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
 Morrell, George Herbert
 Morrison, James Archibald
 Morton, Arthur H. A. (Deptford)
 Mount, William Arthur
 Murray, Rt. Hon. A. Graham (Bute)
 Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
 Nicholson, William Graham
 Nicol, Donald Ninian
 Parkes, Ebenezer
 Pease, Herb't Pike (Darlington)
 Pretymann, Ernest George
 Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
 Purvis, Robert
 Randles, John S.
 Reid, James (Greenock)
 Renwick, George
 Ritchie, Rt. Hon. Chas. Thomson
 Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
 Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
 Round, Rt. Hon. James
 Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
 Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
 Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
 Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
 Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
 Smith, James Parker (Lanarks.)
 Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
 Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)

Stanley, Edward Jas. (Somerset)
 Stanley, Lord (Lancs.)
 Stirling-Maxwell, Sir John M.
 Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
 Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
 Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. (Oxford Univ.)
 Thornton, Percy M.
 Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
 Tufnell, Lieut.-Col. Edward
 Valentia, Viscount
 Vincent, Col. Sir CEH (Sheffield)
 Warde, Colonel C. E.
 Warr, Augustus Frederick
 Webb, Colonel William George
 Welby, Lt.-Col. ACE. (Taunton)
 Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
 Whiteley, H. (Ashton-u.-Lyne)
 Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
 Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
 Willox, Sir John Archibald
 Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
 Wilson, John (Falkirk)
 Wilson, John (Glasgow)
 Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
 Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
 Sir William Walrond and
 Mr. Anstruther.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.)
 Abraham, William (Rhonda)
 Allen, Charles P. (Glouc., Stroud)
 Atherley-Jones, L.
 Black, Alexander William
 Boland, John
 Broadhurst, Henry
 Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
 Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
 Caldwell, James
 Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
 Channing, Francis Allston
 Clancy, John Joseph
 Cogan, Denis J.
 Craig, Robert Hunter
 Crean, Eugene
 Cremer, William Randal
 Dalziel, James Henry
 Delany, William
 Devlin, Joseph
 Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
 Doogan, P. C.
 Duffy, William J.
 Duncan, J. Hastings
 Edwards, Frank
 Farrell, James Patrick
 Fenwick, Charles
 French, Peter
 Flavin, Michael Joseph
 Flynn, James Christopher
 Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
 Gilhooly, James
 Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert John
 Goddard, Daniel Ford
 Grant, Corrie
 Griffith, Ellis J.

Hammond, John
 Hayden, John Patrick
 Hayne, Rt. Hon. Charles Seale-
 Helme, Norval Watson
 Horniman, Frederick John
 Humphreys-Owen, Arthur C.
 Jones, William (Carmarvonshire)
 Jordan, Jeremiah
 Joyce, Michael
 Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
 Layland-Barratt, Francis
 Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
 Levy, Maurice
 Lewis, John Herbert
 Lloyd-George, David
 MacVeagh, Jeremiah
 McArthur, William (Cornwall)
 McKean, John
 McKenna, Reginald
 Mansfield, Horace Rendall
 Morley, Charles (Breckonshire)
 Moss, Samuel
 Murnaghan, George
 Murphy, John
 Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
 Norman, Henry
 O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
 O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
 O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
 O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
 O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
 O'Malley, William
 O'Mara, James
 Partington, Oswald
 Pearson, Sir Weetman D.
 Pease, J. A. Saffron Walden)

Power, Patrick Joseph
 Priestley, Arthur
 Rea, Russell
 Reddy, M.
 Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
 Redmond, William (Clare)
 Rickett, J. Compton
 Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
 Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
 Roche, John
 Runciman, Walter
 Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
 Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
 Shipman, Dr. John G.
 Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
 Soares, Ernest J.
 Sullivan, Donal
 Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
 Thomas, J. A. (Glamorgan, Gower)
 Toulmin, George
 Trevelyan Charles Philips
 Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
 White, George (Norfolk)
 White, Luke (York, E. R.)
 Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
 Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
 Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
 Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
 Wilson, Henry J. (York, W. R.)
 Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
 Mr. Joseph Walton and
 Sir Brampton Gordon.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said the reason for the Amendment he now moved was that from experience it had been found that where there were two or more governing bodies, which had to make appointments, they had to prescribe that which was to make the appointment.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 3, after the word 'two,' to insert the word 'subsequently.'"—(Mr. Herbert Lewis.)

Question proposed, "That the word 'subsequently' be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR hoped the hon. Gentleman would not press his Amendment, because he did not see how it would work in all cases, although it might work in some; and it would raise all sorts of legal difficulties.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that it was important that one of these bodies should appoint the managers first, and it should be made a statutory direction as to which should make the first appointment.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS said that, with the consent of the Committee, he would withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT, in explaining his next Amendment, said he thought some words were necessary in order to make it perfectly clear what the position was of the county boroughs and of the Councils of the urban districts.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"In line 2, after the first 'managers,' insert 'to whom the local education authority may from time to time delegate such of their powers and under such conditions as they think fit. It shall consist.'"—(Mr. Corrie Grant.)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted in the proposed Amendment."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said that the words were absolutely unnecessary, as the Clause provided that if the local authorities did not think fit to appoint managers, they must manage the schools themselves.

*MR. CORRIE GRANT said he bowed always to so distinguished a legal authority, and he withdrew his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE moved to report progress.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he would accept the Motion, provided that on the morrow no pressure was put on that side of the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again upon Wednesday.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn,"—(Sir William Walrond)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at Three o'clock a.m.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXI.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill was originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill	Brought in by	Progress.
Education Act, 1901 (Renewal)		Read 1 ^a 24th July (1124) Read 2 ^a 28th July (1336)
Labour Bureaux (London)	<i>Lord Tweedmouth</i>	Read 3 ^a and passed 14th July (96)
*Licensing	<i>Lord Belper</i>	Read 2 ^a 14th July (78) Committee 21st July (727) Report 28th July (1333)
Midwives	<i>Duke of Northumberland</i>	Read 3 ^a and passed 11th July (4)
*New Forest (Sale of Land for Public Purposes)		Read 2 ^a 18th July (639) Committee Report read 3 ^a and passed 24th July (1124)
*Post Office Sites		Read 2 ^a 17th July (469) Committee and Report 28th July (1332)
Prevention of Corruption [H.L.]	<i>Lord Alverstone</i>	Read 1 ^a 24th July (1124)
*Public Libraries (Ireland)	<i>Lord Ashbourne</i>	Read 2 ^a 25th July (1255) Committee and Report 28th July (1336)
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Licensing) (Ireland)	<i>Earl of Mayo</i>	Read 3 ^a and passed 18th July (639)
Shops' Club	<i>Viscount Cross</i>	Report 17th July (469) Read 3 ^a and passed 18th July (639)
University of Wales (Graduates)		Read 3 ^a and passed 14th July (97)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Day Industrial Schools (Ireland)	<i>Mr. Harrington</i>	Bill withdrawn 17th July (636)
Detention of Poor Persons (Scotland)	<i>Mr. Baird</i>	Read 1° 24th July (1160)
Education Act, 1901 (Renewal)	<i>Dr. Macnamara</i>	Read 1° 17th July (526) Read 2° 21st July (876) Committee Report read 3° and passed 22nd July (1000)
*Education (England and Wales)	<i>Mr. A. J. Balfour</i>	Committee 14th July (130) Committee 16th July (374) Committee 21st July (791) Committee 22nd July (914) Committee 28th July (1413)
*Expiring Law Continuance	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	Read 1° 21st July (791)
Factory and Workshop Act (1901) Amendment (No. 2)	<i>Mr. Tennant</i>	Read 1° 15th July (257)
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities	<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	Bill withdrawn 25th July (1327)
Imported Meat (Ireland)	<i>Mr. Field</i>	Read 1° 24th July (1160)
*Isle of Man (Customs)	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	Read 1° 22nd July (914)
*Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2)	<i>Mr. Wyndham</i>	Read 2° 16th July (458)
*Local Government (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2)	<i>Mr. Graham Murray</i>	Committee 16th July (463)
*London Water	<i>Mr. Walter Long</i>	Committee 11th July (10) Committee 18th July (671)
Meat Marking (Ireland)	<i>Mr. Field</i>	Bill withdrawn
*Pacific Cable	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	Read 1° 21st July (791)
Pauper Children (Ireland) [H.L.]	<i>Mr. Hugh Law</i>	Committee Report read 3° and passed 15th July (355)
*Police (Expenses)	<i>Mr. Jesse Collins</i>	Read 1° 16th July (374)
*Police (Superannuation)	<i>Mr. Jesse Collins</i>	Read 1° 16th July (373)
Public Libraries (Ireland)	<i>Mr. Dillon</i>	Read 3° and passed 15th July (356)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Public Works Loans	<i>Mr. Austen Chamberlain</i>	Read 1 ^o 15th July (257)
Rating of Machinery	<i>Mr. Chapman</i>	Committee 16th July (463)
Shops	<i>Sir Charles Dilke</i>	Bill withdrawn 25th July (1327)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1902.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

[In continuation of List given in previous Volume.]

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Intermediate Education (Ireland).—Copy of Additional Rule made by the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, dated 4th July 1902 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	16 July	40 days
Universities of Oxford and Cambridge Act, 1877 (Oxford).—Copy of Statute made by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, on 20th March, 1902, amending Statute III. (12) (Fellowships held by Professors) of the Statutes of the College [25 and 26 Vic., c. 36, s. 7]	18 July	12 weeks.
Factory and Workshop Acts (Home Work) (Making of Chains, Anchors, Cart Gear, Locks, Latches, and Keys).—Copy of Order, dated 14th July 1902, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, applying Sections 107 and 108 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, to Factories and Workshops in which the making of Chains, Anchors, Cart Gear, Locks, Latches, and Keys is carried on [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 12 (3)]	23 July	40 days.
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Q. *July 23*, 1019.**Great Western Railway (Crumlin Viaduct) Bill**l. Re-com., *July 25*, 1253.**Greenock and Port Glasgow Tramways (Extension) Order Confirmation Bill**l. 2R.* *July 18*, 638.3R. *July 24*, 1121.c. 1R.* *July 28*, 1327.**Grenfell, Baron**Took his Seat in the House of Lords, *July 22*, 879.**Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.** [Northumberland, Berwick]

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Q. *July 21*, 764.**Halifax Corporation Bill**l. Royal Assent, *July 22*, 878.**Halsbury, Earl of**—Lord Chancellor.Licensing Bill, *com.* *July 21*, 752; Report, *July 28*, 1334.Salisbury, Lord, Resignation of, *July 14*, 75.**Hamilton, Rt. Hon. Lord G.**—Secretary of State for India [Middlesex, Ealing]Budget, Date of taking, *July 16*, 369.Coronation Celebrations—Expenses of Indian Guests, Charges on Indian Revenues, *July 24*, 1153, 1154.Indian Office, Reception at—Expenditure falling on the Revenues of India, *July 14*, 114; *July 21*, 773.Governor-General of India in Council, Order conferring additional Powers on—Territories in which Powers will be operative, etc., *July 16*, 367.Imperial Institute—Total sum paid from the Revenues of India for the Maintenance of the Indian Section, *July 14*, 113.Manufacturing and Agricultural Industries—Inquiry into Action and Effects of the Currency System promulgated in 1893, proposed, *July 14*, 113, 114.

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*Debate in Com. of Supply, July 15, 341.***Immoral Traffic (Scotland) Bill**l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 877.***Imperial Institute**

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Q. July 17, 511.

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Q. July 15, 241.

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Q. July 28, 1342.

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Q. July 28, 1342.

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Q. July 24, 1145.

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Q. July 23, 1004.

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Q. July 23, 1006.

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Q. July 24, 1146.

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Q. July 14, 108.

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Q. July 16, 361.

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Qs. July 24, 1153.

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Inquiry into the Action and Effects of the Currency System promulgated in 1893, proposed.

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Q. July 23, 1005.

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Q. July 23, 1343.

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Q. July 23, 1005.

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Qs. Lord Stanley of Alderley, July 24, 1129; Earl of Hardwicke, 1131.

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Q. July 23, 1004.

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Q. July 14, 113.

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Q. July 21, 763.

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Q. July 23, 1005.

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Q. July 28, 1343.

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Q. July 22, 895.

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Q. July 28, 1358.

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Q. July 11, 6.

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Q. July 23, 1005.

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Q. July 24, 1145.

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Q. July 16, 359.

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Q. July 21, 776.

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Lord Lieutenant—Earl Cadogan.

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Wagons by the South Coast Railway
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Q. July 28, 1361.

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Q. July 25, 1266.

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Q. July 24, 1156.

Distillation, Illicit—Constabulary charged with making Bogus Discoveries of Illicit Stilla, Small Number of Prosecutions, Revision of Scale of Rewards for Seizures, Public Inquiry, proposed.

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Donegal Fishing Subsidies—Amount paid to Scottish Curers for development of the Summer Fishing, etc.

Q. July 24, 1156.

Dublin, *see* that title.

Education, for collective heading, *see* Education,

Eviction Notices, Return for Quarter ended June 30, Presented, *July 17, 467, 508; July 23, 1341.*

Extradition with the United States—Person charged with Cattle Houghing, etc., Bringing to Ireland for Trial.

Q. July 15, 252.

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Foyle and Bann Salmon Fisheries—Use of Drift Nets, Enforcing Law as to Weekly Close time, etc.

Q. July 14, 119.

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Local Self Government, *see* that sub-heading.

Reforms and Remedial Legislation invariably due to Agitation, alleged.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 24, 1162, 1180, 1231.

See also subheading Law and Justice.

Granard, *see* that title.

Gun Licence, Blackhall, Prosecution of Mr. J. Behan—Return of Fine, proposed.

Q. July 21, 777.

Hibernian Academy, Royal

Improving Position of—Government Communication with the Corporate Body of the Academy.

Q. July 22, 911.

Site—Securing New Site adjacent to existing Art Buildings—Referring Claim to Committee on Public Offices (Dublin) Bill, proposed.

Q. July 23, 1020.

High Court of Justice, Probate Court Division, Accounts for 1901, Presented *July 21, 726, 762.*

Industrial Schools—Custody, Training, etc., of children, Contributions by Parliament—Resolution, (Mr. Wyndham), *July 16, 464; July 17, 635.*

Infectious Diseases, Making Notification Compulsory by Urban or Rural Sanitary Authorities—Legislation.

Q. July 16, 363.

Intermediate Education, *see* that title.

Judicial Statistics—Copy of Civil Statistics Presented *July 18, 638, 668.*

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Number of Catholic Jurors Challenged, etc.

Os. Mr. Harrington, July 24, 1197; Mr. Atherley-Jones, 1201.

Sullivan, Sergeant, Case of.

O. Mr. W. O'Brien, July 24, 1218.

Kenmare Harbour Accommodation, Improvements in—Allocation of Money available under Marine Works Bill, etc.

Q. July 23, 1347.

Kerry, *see* that title.

Kilkenny Parliamentary Election—New Member Sworn for North Division, *July 22, 914.*

Killorbee Postal Arrangements—Delay in Delivery of Letters to Persons residing in the Townland.

Q. July 23, 1346.

Ireland—cont.

King's Scholars Examinations, Date of making known Result to Candidates and to Training College Authorities, etc.

Q. July 28, 1347.

Kingscourt—Assault on T. M'Mahon by Constable Kevelehan, alleged.

Q. July 17, 513.

Kinwara Harbour. Including amongst Places to be scheduled under Marine Works Bill, proposed.

Q. July 28, 1350.

Labourers' Cottages, for collective heading *see* Labourers' Cottages.

Land Commission, *see* that title.

Land Purchase, *see* that title.

Law and Justice, Administration—Charges against the Executive.

Charges against the Constabulary, *see* Constabulary, Royal Irish.

Debate in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1022.

Inequality between England and Ireland, alleged.

Os. Mr. Atherley Jones, July 24, 1200; Mr. Hemp-hill, 1205.

Inequality of Treatment of Catholics and Protestants.

O. Mr. T. M. Healy, July 24, 1178.

Letterkenny Railway — Dunfanaghy District Council Petition for remission of tax paid by Rural District in respect of the Railway, etc.

Q. July 24, 1158.

Lights Board—Employment of Light-keepers to do Artisan's Work, Scale of payment—Compliance with Fair Wage Resolution.

Q. July 23, 1020.

Local Self Government, Extension of.

O. Mr. Haldane, July 23, 1066.

"Step by Step" Policy, Reform of Dublin Castle, etc.

O. Mr. J. Morley, July 24, 1235.

Local Taxation Account—Disposal of Unexpended Balances.

Q. July 15, 243; July 21, 779; July 28, 1364.

Longford Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Delay in sanctioning Loan, etc.

Q. July 28, 1363.

Lord Lieutenant—Allowance, in addition to annual Salary, to incoming Lord Lieutenant.

Q. July 21, 782.

Macfarlane Estate — Delay in Sale to Tenants, Expediting Proceedings, proposed.

Q. July 23, 1364.

Magheralough—Delay in widening Road.

Q. July 28, 1349.

Magistrates and Justices of the Peace, *see* that title.

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Mallow, Extending Trunk Telephone System to—Waiving Demand for a Guarantee, proposed.

Q. July 14, 126.

Marlborough Street College, Dublin, *see* Dublin.

Meetings, Suppression of Public Meetings—Number suppressed during Mr. Morley's Chief Secretaryship.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1081; July 24, 1236, 1240.

Millstreet—Prosecution of S. Kirby for begging, Reasons for dealing with Case summarily.

Q. July 14, 122.

Naas—Guardians, Use of Room in Work-house provided for Custody of Registrar's Records, Refusal of Consent by Registrar-General.

Q. July 22, 910.

National Board of Education, *see* that title.

National Education, *see* title Education, Ireland.

Nenagh Labourers' Cottages, Rejection of Applications of Castletown Labourers—District Council Resolution.

Q. July 21, 781.

New Kilmainham, Urban Council Final Audit—Solicitor presenting Bills for opposing Dublin Boundaries Bill, Dublin Corporation discharging share of Liabilities, etc.

Q. July 15, 243.

Newry, *see* that title.

Newtownhamilton Police Barracks—Head Constable holding Religious Demonstrations, alleged.

Q. July 21, 778.

Orange Demonstrations, *see* that title.

Orange Party, Dissatisfaction with Mr. Wyndham's Management of Irish Affairs.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1045, 1052, 1054, 1057, 1061, 1113, 1119.

Parliamentary Discussion of Irish Affairs—Insufficient Time given to Ireland, etc.

O. Mr. T. M. Healy, July 24, 1181.

Pauper Children, Boarding-out System—Objections to appointment of Protestant Lady Inspector.

Os. Mr. T. W. Russell, July 23, 1099, Mr. G. Morley, July 24, 1226.

Phoenix Park, *see* that title.

Piers and Harbours, *see* that title.

Police, for collective heading *see* title Constabulary, Royal Irish, also title Dublin—Metropolitan Police.

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Ireland—cont.

- Post Office, for collective heading *see* Post Office.
- Postmasterships — Number of Vacancies since Appointment of Lord Londonderry as Postmaster-General, Number of Roman Catholics appointed.
Q. July 14, 125.
- Prisons, for collective heading *see* Prisons.
- Queen's College, Galway—Annual Report Presented, *July 15, 218, 236.*
- Raphoe—Post Office Messenger taking part in Orange Procession.
Q. July 24, 1159.
- Rathkeale, *see* that title.
- Records, Public—Report for 1901 Presented, *July 11, 3, 6.*
- Representative Peer—Lord Oranmore and Browne, *July 14, 69.*
- Resident Magistrates, *see* title Magistrates and Justices of the Peace.
- Revenue and Expenditure of the United Kingdom, Contributions to—Return Presented, *July 21, 762 (see also title Financial Relations).*
- Rostrevor, Orange Demonstration, *see* Rostrevor.
- Royal Irish Constabulary *see* title Constabulary.
- Royal University—Copy of Account of Receipts and Expenditure, Presented *July 17, 510.*
- Scarva, *see* that title.
- Science, Royal College of, Dublin.
- Electrical Engineering Advisability of making provision for teaching of.
Q. July 14, 109.
- New College—Name of Architect.
Q. July 14, 124.
- Science Syllabus, Framing of.
- Omission to consult Professors of Chemistry and Physics of the Royal College of Science.
Q. July 23, 1348.
- Responsibility for — Appointment of Commission to consider.
Q. July 14, 109.
- Sea Fisheries—Harbours, Piers, and Boat-slips, Sums expended on, Return Ordered, *July 11, 6.*
- Sheridan, Ex-Sergeant, Charges against, *see* Sheridan.
- Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, Delay in dealing with Dublin Schemes, alleged.
Q. July 23, 1014.
- Tea and Tobacco Duties, Falling off in Amount for year ending March 31, 1902—Estimated Amount for 1903, etc.
Q. July 14, 107.
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- Telephone Service — Extending Trunk System to Mallow and Tipperary, Waiving Demand for a Guarantee, proposed.
Q. July 14, 126.
- Tincoora—Refusal of D. Forde's application for Cottage and Plot of Ground.
Q. July 17, 514.
- see* Tipperary, *see* that title.
- Tory Island, Breakdown of Telegraphic Communication with Donegal Coast.
Q. July 24, 1160.
- Training Colleges, *see* that title.
- Tullyhogue, *see* that title.
- Under Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant, Duties of—Date of creation of Office, etc.
Q. July 11, 7.
- United Irish League, *see* that title.
- University Education, Royal Commission — Reports, Date of Presentation.
Qs. July 21, 782; July 23, 1366.
- Warrenpoint Orange Demonstration, *see* Warrenpoint.
- Wexford, *see* that title.
- Wicklow County, *see* that title.
- Works, Board of — Employees having Salaries above £400 a year, Number of Roman Catholics promoted, etc.
Q. July 14, 125.

Irish Language

- Teachers, Examination of—Assimilating Rules to those for Examination of Teachers in Welsh.
Q. July 21, 777.

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- County Council Elections in Ireland, Action as to, Attitude on the War, etc.
Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1114, 1116, 1233, 1234.

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- "What is the Irish Question"—English Opinion on the Irish Question, etc.
Q. Mr. Tomkinson, July 23, 1107.

Irrigation

- Indian Irrigation Commission — Laying Report upon the Table, proposed.
Q. July 21, 763.

Irvine Corporation Order Confirmation Bill

- l. Royal Assent, July 22, 878.*

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill

- c. 1R.* July 22, 914.*

Italy

- Anglo-Italian Relations.
- Change in the Attitude of Italy due to the British Ambassador at Rome, Italian request for Lord Currie's Recall, alleged—Criticism of Lord Currie's diplomatic career.
Debate in Com. of Supply, July 15, 286, 292, 294, 304, 309.

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Italy—cont.**Anglo-Italian Relations—cont.**

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Os. Lord Cranborne, *July 15*, 295; Sir E. Grey, 309.

Franco-Italian Understanding—Tact and foresight required to allay Italian apprehension, Making clear to both Countries that the arrangement would in no way impair their relations with Great Britain.

Grey, Sir E., on, July 15, 305.

Mediterranean, Lapse of Anglo-Italian understanding in, alleged—New Franco-Italian Understanding, Anglo-French Arrangement concerning Tripoli, etc.

Os. Earl Spencer, *July 18*, 650; Marquess of Lansdowne, 660.

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Os. Marquess of Lansdowne, *July 18*, 662; *July 24*, 1135.

Mediterranean, Political Situation in—Communications between Italian, French and Spanish Governments for establishment of Latin League, etc.

Q. *July 21*, 773.**Jam**

Army Rations—Weights of various kinds of Jam bought in 1899, 1900, and 1901, etc.

Q. *July 24*, 1150.**Jam Factories**

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James of Hereford, Lord—Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Ireland—Trial by Jury, Lord James's alleged Remark—Mr. T. Healy's Personal Explanation, *July 24*, 1252.

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Jameson, Major J. E. [Clare, W.]

Army Medical Department, Reform of—Partial Reform, Inducements not sufficient to secure good men, System of Signatures for Stores, etc., *July 17*, 616, 630.

Japan

Anglo-Japanese Agreement—Attitude of H.M. Government towards Alliances with Foreign Powers, Impression in Japan created by Lord Cranborne's expressions.

Os. Earl Spencer, *July 18*, 649; Marquess of Lansdowne, 658.

Kobe—Consular Report, Omission of Local Industries.

O. Mr. Weir, *July 16*, 318.**Jebb, Sir R. [Cambridge University]**

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 14*, 209.

Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. A. F.—Deputy Chairman of Committees of Ways and Means [Hants, N.]

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Police, Discussion of, on Vote for Chief Secretary's Office would be irregular unless by consent of the House and the Chair, *July 24*, 1199.

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Johnstone, Mr. J. Heywood [Sussex, Horsham]

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Jones, Mr. D. B. [Swansea District]

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Jones, Mr. W. [Carnarvon, Arfon]

Education (England and Wales) Bill. *com.*
July 28, 1434.

Joyce, Mr. M. [Limerick]

Kilrush, Non-delivery of telegram, owing
 to alleged insufficient address—
 Inquiry proposed, *July 28, 1361.*

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Kerry Estates of Trinity College, Dublin
 —Appeals from rents fixed in 1900,
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Q. July 14, 121.

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Marines, Royal—Supersession of General
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Harbour Accommodation, Improvements
 in—Allocation of Money available
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Q. July 28, 1347.

Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H. [Devon,
Honiton]

Buller, Sir Redvers, Treatment of—Parlia-
 mentary Discussion of Matters affect-
 ing Army Discipline, Dismissal of
 Sir Redvers Buller, *etc.*, *July 17, 543,*
588.

Kent Electric Power Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 22, 878.

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Kenyon, Mr. G. T. [Denbigh]

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O. Mr. Lough, July 25, 1296.

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Q. July 14, 121.

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Q. July 17, 513.

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Q. July 15, 252.

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Q. July 23, 1005.

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 supplied by Indian Government, *etc.*
Q. July 28, 1343.

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United Irish League Solicitor—Respon-
 sibility for taking De Freyne Estate
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Killorbee

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Q. July 28, 1346.

Kilmaine

Public Meeting, Suppression of—Charges
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O. Mr. W. Redmond, July 24, 1186.

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 alleged insufficient address—Inquiry
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Q. July 28, 1361.

Kimber, Mr. H. [Wandsworth]

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 Condition under British Administra-
 tion, alleged, *July 24, 1144.*

South African War—Distribution of
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King, Sir H. S. [Hull, Central]Coronation—Declaring Aug. 9th a Bank Holiday, *July 23*, 1012.Indian Army—Mekran, Services of Native Troops in 1898 and 1902—Granting Medals, *July 23*, 1006.**Kingscourt**Assault on J. M'Mahon by Constable Kevelehan, alleged.
Q. July 17, 513.**Kingscourt, Keady, and Armagh Railway Bill***l. Royal Assent, July 22*, 878.**Kinwara**Harbour, including amongst Places to be scheduled under Marine Works Bill, proposed.
Q. July 28, 1350.**Kirby, Stephen**Prosecution for Begging—Reasons for dealing with case summarily.
Q. July 14, 122.**Knaresborough Improvement Bill***l. Royal Assent, July 22*, 878.**Knowles, Mr. Lees** [Salford, W.]Volunteers, Efficiency Regulations—Performance of Sixteen Annual Drills and Musketry apart from Camp Attendance constituting efficient Volunteer, etc., *July 24*, 1151, 1152.**Kobe**

Consular Report, Omission of Local Industries.

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Q. July 15, 245.**Kythall**Indian Government declining to restore Territory to Sirdar Bhai Shamshere Singh.
Q. July 22, 895.Population Statistics, etc.—Deterioration in Economic Condition under British Administration, alleged.
Q. July 24, 1144.**Laboratories**Government Laboratory—Report, with Appendices, Presented, *July 21*, 726, 761.**Labouchere, Mr. H.** [Northampton]Army—Second Life Guards, Second Lieutenant roughly handled by brother officers, Quarters damaged, etc.—Inquiry, *July 28*, 1353.Colonies, Fiscal Policy of the Imperial Government—Government adhering to Sir M. Hicks Beach's Policy, *July 21*, 784.**Labouchere, Mr. H.**—cont.Consular Service—Appointment of Foreigners, Insufficient Expenditure, System of Patronage, etc., *July 15*, 290.Currie, Lord, Ambassadorial Work of—Italian Request for Withdrawal of Lord Currie, alleged, *July 15*, 292.India Office Coronation Reception—Charge on the Revenue of India, *July 14*, 114.Auditor's Remarks on Expenditure, Date of laying before Parliament, etc., *July 28*, 1344.Details of Expenditure, *July 28*, 1343.Legality and Propriety of charging India with whole cost, *July 21*, 773.Sandhurst, Incendiary Fires and Disturbances, Rustication of Cadets, etc.—Nature of Inquiry, Date of Completion, etc., *July 15*, 249; *July 21*, 773.South African War—Transport Service, System in arranging Freight, etc., *July 28*, 1351.**Labour**Board of Trade Labour Department—Changes in Rates of Wages, Hours of Labour, etc.—Report and Statistical Tables, Presented, *July 25*, 1254, 1263.

Hours of Labour in Jam Factories—Special Exception Order, Length of Notice necessary for Amendment of Order.

Personal Explanation (Mr. S. Wortley) (Mr. Ritchie), *July 11*, 67.**Labour Bureaux (London) Bill***l. 3R*, July 14*, 96.Royal Assent, *July 22*, 877.**Labourers' Cottages, Ireland**Birr District Council Scheme—Omission of Cottage of P. Cassidy, Reasons for, etc.
Q. July 28, 1365.Cavan Union—Delay in Erection of Cottages
Q. July 14, 110.Granard, Erection of Cottages—Delay in issue of Loan.
Q. July 24, 1158.Longford Union Scheme—Delay in sanctioning Loan, etc.
Q. July 28, 1363.Nenagh, Rejection of Applications of Castletown Labourers—District Council Resolution.
Q. July 21, 781.Tincoora—Refusal of D. Forde's Application for Cottage and Plot of Ground.
Q. July 17, 514.**Ladysmith**

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Lambert, Mr. G. [Devonshire, South Molton]

Buller, Sir Redvers Case of—Mr. Brodriek quoting Secret Telegrams, Permission for General Buller to publish Telegrams, Inquiry by an Impartial Tribunal, etc., *July 17*, 568, 569.

Preservatives in Food Committee—Eastbourne Sanitary Authority issuing Circular expressing intention of acting on Recommendations of Committee, Public Authorities awaiting Government Decision, proposed, *July 15*, 239.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill

l. Royal Assent, *July 22*, 878.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Various Powers) Bill

l. 3R*, *July 17*, 465.

c. Lords Amendts. *con.**, *July 22*, 893.

Lancaster, County of

Clitheroe Division—New Writ, *July 25*, 1263.

Land Commission, Ireland

Annally Estate, Sale of Farms to Tenants, Number of applications, Number rejected and accepted, etc.
Q. *July 28*, 1363.

Judicial Rents—Kerry Estates of Trinity College, Dublin, Appeals from rents fixed in 1900, Date of sitting of Land Commission.
Q. *July 14*, 121.

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Report of Commissioners Presented, *July 18*, 638, 667.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill

l. *com.* and Report,* *July 18*, 638.
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Land Purchase Acts (Ireland) Amendment Bill

Appeal to Mr. Wyndham to proceed with the Bill.
O. Mr. Lonsdale, *July 23*, 1119.

"Miserable Makeshift,"—Landlords' Bill, alleged.

O. Mr. J. Redmond, *July 23*, 1026.

Proceeding with the Bill in the Autumn Sitting, Government intentions.
Q. *July 17*, 523.

Land Purchase, Ireland

Annally Estate, Sale of Farms to Tenants, Number of Applications, Number Rejected and Accepted, etc.
Q. *July 28*, 1363.

Government Responsibility for present Agitation, etc.

O. Mr. C. Douglas, *July 24*, 1212.

Irish Leaders in the House, Inconsistency of.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *July 23*, 1085, 1087, 1091, 1110.

Land Purchase, Ireland—cont.

Irreconcilable Attitude of Irish Agitators—Uselessness of Concession, etc.

O. Mr. Harris, *July 24*, 1174.

Landlords, Position of—"In a falling market," alleged.

O. Mr. C. Douglas, *July 24*, 1210, 1212.

Loan for proposed—Compulsory Purchase, etc.

Observations in Com. of Supply, *July 23*, 1102, 1105.

Macfarlane Estate—Delay in Sale to Tenants, Expediting Proceedings; proposed.

Q. *July 28*, 1364.

Machinery of Purchase a Question of Price.

O. Mr. T. M. Healy, *July 24*, 1184.

Payment of Purchase Instalments into any Bank for transmission to the Bank of Ireland.

Q. *July 15*, 252.

"Social Proscription" as a means of settling the Land Question—Evils of system, etc.

Os. Mr. Wyndham, *July 23*, 1088;

Mr. W. O'Brien, *July 24*, 1245.

Wicklow County—Number of Tenant Purchasers, Acreage Purchased, Rental prior to Purchase, etc.

Q. *July 14*, 121.

Lansdowne, Marquess of—Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Anglo-Italian Relations in the Mediterranean, Italian Misgivings as to Anglo-French Arrangement regarding Tripoli, etc.—Satisfactory nature of present Relations. Italian Co-operation in Somaliland, etc., *July 18*, 660.

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Somaliland, Expeditions against the Mad Mullah—Arrangement with the Italian Government, Progress of Operations, etc., *July 18*, 662; *July 24*, 1133.

Latin League

Mediterranean, Political Situation in—Communications between Italian, French and Spanish Governments for Establishment of Latin League, etc.

Q. *July 21*, 773.

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Law, Mr. A. B. [Glasgow, Blackfriars]

Indian Railways, Locomotives Tenders—Correspondence between Secretary for India and Glasgow firms on the subject of Competition between British and German Locomotives, Laying on the Table of the House, *July 11, 7.*

Law, Mr. H. [Donegal, W.]

Ireland

Donegal Fishing Subsidies—Amount paid to Scottish Curers for development of the Summer Fishing, etc., *July 24, 1156.*

Illicit Stills, Number of discoveries—Disappearance of Illicit Distillation in Ireland, etc., *July 15, 343.*

Letterkenny Railway—Dunfanaghy District Council Petition for Remission of Tax paid by Rural District in respect of the Railway, etc., *July 24, 1158.*

Taxation, Over-Taxation of Ireland, alleged, *July 25, 1281.*

Tory Island, Breakdown of Telegraphic Communication with Donegal Coast, *July 24, 1160.*

Law Courts—High Court of Justice, etc.

Ireland, Probate Court, Accounts for 1901 Presented, *July 21, 726, 762.*

Supreme Court of Judicature Taxing Office, Documents of not sufficient value to justify preservation—Schedule Presented, *July 25, 1255, 1263.*

Lawrence, Sir J. [Monmouth Boroughs]

Indian Railways—Locomotive Contracts let to Hungarian firm, *July 15, 240.*

Lawson, Mr. J. Grant—Secretary to the Local Government Board [Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk]

London Water Bill, *re-com.*, *July 18, 689.*

Leader, Mr. H. W.

Length of Appointment as Justice of the Peace—Case of S. Kirby, reasons for dealing with summarily. *Q. July 14, 122.*

Leamington Corporation Bill

l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 878.*

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Education (England and Wales) Bill, *con. July 14, 179, 206; July 21, 809, 817.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill—Orphan Asylums, Maintenance and Efficiency of, Obligations of Local Authorities under Clause 8 of the Bill, *July 14, 111.*

St. Mark's Schools, Marylebone Road—Ritualistic Services. Compulsory Attendance of School Children, *July 23, 1358, 1360.*

Macartney, Rt. Hon. W. E. [Antrim, S.] Ireland.

Government Policy—Suppression of Orange Demonstration at Ros-trevor, Condition of De Freyne Estate Tenants, etc., *July 23, 1043, 1047, 1050, 1051, 1097; July 24, 1231.*

Scarva—Assault on Mr. A. Moore, *July 23, 1018.*

Warrenpoint Orange Demonstration—Extra Police, Employment of Larger Force than that asked for, *July 21, 778.*

Local Government (Ireland) (No. 2) Bill, 2R. *July 16, 460, 462.*

McCann, Mr. J. [Dublin, St. Stephen's Green]

Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland—Over-Taxation of Ireland, alleged, *July 25, 1320.*

McCrae, Mr. G. [Edinburgh, E.]

London Water Bill, *re-com. July 18, 702, 705, 706, 707, 709.*

McDermott, Dr.

Boycott of, for Paying Rent to Lord De Freyne. O. Col. Sanderson, *July 23, 1111.*

Macfarlane Estate, Tyrone

Delay in Sale to Tenants, Expediting Proceedings, proposed. Q. *July 23, 1364.*

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McGoohan Case

Malicious Injury Charges against Ex-Sergeant Sheridan—Compensation to McGoohan proposed.

Q. July 24, 1157.

Comparison with Compassionate Allowances given to Sheridan's Accomplices, etc.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1035, 1078; July 24, 1171.

McGovern, Mr. T. [Cavan, W.]

Ireland.

Carrickaleese — Letter containing Money Order, Delivery to Wrong Person—Disposal of Letter, *July 21, 765.*

Cavan Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Delay in Erection of Cottages, *July 14, 110.*

Machinery

Fencing—Prosecution of Occupier of Wexford Saw Mills for Failure to Fence Machinery, Dismissal of Summons.

Q. July 15, 255.

M'Intyre, Mr. A. K.

Official Assignee of the Bankruptcy Court, Ireland—Appearance at Prosecutions as Handwriting Expert.

Q. July 23, 1018.

"Impostor," Mr. M'Intyre as — Mr. J. Redmond attributing phrase to Solicitor General for Ireland—*Personal Explanation, Mr. J. Redmond, July 15, 255.*

McIver, Sir L. [Edinburgh, W.]

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Mackay, Sir J.

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O. Marquess of Lansdowne, July 18, 656.

M'Kean, Mr. J. [Monaghan, S.]

Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland, Over-taxation of Ireland, alleged, *July 25, 1286.*

McKenna, Mr. B. [Monmouth, N.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 14, 178, 189; July 21, 795, 836, 837, 874; July 22, 916, 923, 924, 937, 945; July 28, 1419, 1432.*

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McKenna, Mr. B.—cont.

South-Eastern and Chatham Railway, Excess Luggage Charges—Route to Continent—Board of Trade insisting that each Excess Luggage Ticket shall distinguish amount levied for transit in England and amount for Sea passage, etc., proposed, *July 18, 669.*

Macnamara, Dr. T. J. [Camberwell, N.]

Education—Evening Continuation Schools, Maintenance of, between expiry of the Cockerton Judgment Act and passing of the Education Bill, *July 15, 257.*

Education Act (1901) [Renewal] Bill, Ensuring passing into Law before *July 31st, July 21, 785.*

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London Water Bill, *re-com. July 11, 22, 34, 35, 60; July 18, 677, 678, 686, 689, 692.*

MacNeill, Mr. Swift [Donegal, S.]

Africa, South—Maintenance of Censorship—Appointment of Sir E. Hulse as Censor, *July 17, 518.*

Buller, Sir Redvers, Case of—Irish Debt to Sir Redvers Buller, Publication of selected Telegrams, Dismissal from Command, etc., *July 17, 589, 591, 593.*

Cape Colony, Suspension of the Constitution—Lord Milner's Letter to Dr. Smarts advocating suspension, Government Action, *July 24, 1152.*

Horses for the Army, Purchase of, Action against Major Studdert.

Abandonment of Legal Proceedings — Terms of Compromise, *July 17, 518; July 22, 903, 904.*

St. Quentin, Col.—Reasons for not calling as Witness at Dublin Trial, *July 22, 902.*

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Raphoe—Post Office Messenger taking part in Orange Procession, *July 24, 1159.*

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South African War.

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Ladysmith, Siege of—Publication of Sir G. White's Despatch detailing History of the Siege, etc., proposed, *July 15, 245, 246.*

White, Sir G., War Office Efforts to supersede—Frustration by Sir R. Buller, alleged, *July 15, 246.*

MacVeagh, Mr. J. [Down, S.]

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Government Policy—Orange Views on Mr Wyndham's Chief Secretaryship, Suppression of Orange Demonstration at Rostrevor, etc., *July 23, 1051, 1052, 1068.*

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Orangeman prosecuted on Charge of firing with intent to maim, Magistrates refusing information, *July 21, 779.*

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Scarva—Ambulance Van stopped on Highway by Mob, *July 23, 1018.*

Warrenpoint Orange Demonstration.—Processionists discharging Firearms along line of Route, *July 16, 362.*

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Road, Delay in Widening.
Q. July 28, 1349.

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Appointment of Mr. Harrel and Mr. Brown—Reasons for passing over Mr. Henn, etc.

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Q. July 17, 523.

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Qs. July 14, 121; July 17, 522.

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Q. July 16, 369.

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Q. July 14, 126.

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Q. July 24, 1155.

Solution of—Existing Position anything but Satisfactory.

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Q. July 23, 1004.

Margate Corporation Water Bill

c. Report July 24, 1138.*

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Q. July 28, 1347.

Kinwara Harbour, Including amongst Places to be scheduled under the Bill, proposed.
Q. July 28, 1350.

Lakes, Permitting Money to be used for Works on larger Irish Lakes—Amendment proposed.
Q. July 23, 1015.

Marines, Royal

Supersession of General Officer as being mentally unfit—Retention of Name on the Active List.
Q. July 17, 513.

Markham, Mr. A. B. [Notts., Mansfield]

Army Medical Stores, System of Counter-signing Orders, *July 17, 618.*

Mines, Use of Electricity in—Means of Avoiding Loss of Life and Injury, Government Decision, *July 15, 251.*

South African Republics — Communications with the Prime Minister, Publication of Cables, *July 15, 245; July 21, 771.*

Marlborough Street College, Dublin
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Q. July 17, 524.**Mather, Sir. W.** [Lancashire, Rossendale]Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com.*
July 14, 199; *July 16*, 385, 423.**Maughan, George**Crimean Veteran—Application for increase of Pension refused, Making special exception, proposed.
Q. July 14, 110.**Mayo, Earl of**Africa, South—Land Settlement Schemes, Issue of Leaflet giving information to intending Emigrants, proposed, *July 15*, 227.Phoenix Park, Dublin—Disturbance created by Workmen hooting Band, Measures to ensure future peace, *July 25*, 1258.**Meat Marking [Ireland] Bill***c.* Bill withdrawn, *July 22*, 1000.**Medals and Clasp**China—Defence of the Legations, Granting Medal and Clasp to Civilian Volunteers.
Q. July 16, 367.Mekran, Services of Indian Native Troops in 1898 and 1902—Granting Medals.
Q. July 23, 1006.**South African War.**Nurses, Granting Medals, etc., to.
Q. July 22, 900.Reward for Army and Volunteer Nurses other than South African War Medal, etc.
Q. July 28, 1351.Victoria Cross, Distribution to Relatives of Deceased Soldiers.
Q. July 17, 517.Yeomanry, Imperial, landing in South Africa after 31st May not entitled to Medals—Exception in case of Yeomanry raised under Army Order of 9th January, proposed.
Q. July 28, 1350.Volunteer Long Service Medal—Men serving in other Forces, Reckoning such service towards Long Service Medal, proposed.
Q. July 11, 8.Yeomanry—Long Service Medal, proposed.
O. Sir R. Hermon-Hodge, *July 17*, 606.**Medical Department, Army***see* Army.**Medical Officers**

Poor Law Medical Officers.

Anæsthetics, Administration to Paupers, Payment to Medical Officer, etc.
Q. July 17, 511.Farr, Advertisement for Medical Officer—Local Government Board Regulations.
Q. July 24, 1141.**Mediterranean**Political Situation in—Communications between Italian, French, and Spanish Governments for establishment of Latin League, etc.
Q. July 21, 773.**Medway and Thames Canal Bill***c. con.* July 14*, 98.*3R.* July 17*, 506.*l.* Commons Amendts. *con.* July 22*, 879.**Meeting of the House at Two O'clock**

Procedure, New Rule—Strain of the Earlier Hour of Meeting, Attendance not so good as under the old Rule, etc.

Debate on Motion for Suspension of the Twelve O'clock Rule, July 28, 1383, 1385, 1404.**Mekran**Indian Native Troops, Services in Mekran in 1898 and 1902 Granting Medals.
Q. July 23, 1006.**Mellor, Rt. Hon. J. W.** [Yorks., W. R., Sowerby]Brompton and Piccadilly Circus Railway [New Lines, etc.] Bill, *2R. July 16*, 439.Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 14*, 200.London Water Bill, *re-com., July 11*, 15, 32, 34; *July 18*, 715.**Members of Parliament**Coronation Naval Review, Arrangements for Members to view.
Q. July 28, 1345.**Menai Bridge Urban District Council Bill***c.* Report.* *July 17*, 506.
con. July 28*, 1338.**Mercantile Marine**Deserter—Australian Immigration Restriction Act, Provision as to Deserters from Ships—Placing Owners of British and Foreign Vessels on same Footing.
Q. July 28, 1356.Light Load Line—Motion for appointment of Select Committee of Inquiry [Earl of Dudley] *July 28*, 1338.Tolls on Registered Tonnage—Cases in which Registered Tonnage is one-fourth of carrying power of Steamer, Protecting Interests of Authorities responsible for collection of Tolls.
Q. July 28, 1357.

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Mers-el-Kebir

French Naval Station at—Distance from Gibraltar, Fortifications, etc.

Q. July 23, 1010.

Merthyr Tydvil

Population—Number of Municipal (Non-County) Boroughs having Population exceeding that of the Urban District of Merthyr Tydvil.

Q. July 17, 512.

Meteorological Council

Annual Grant, Conditions of—Maintaining Observatories at Fort William in efficient condition, proposed.

Q. July 28, 1368.

Metropolitan District Railway Bill

l. Report, July 11, 2.*

3R. July 24, 1122.*

Metropolitan Gas Companies

Accounts for 1901, Presented *July 15, 236 ; July 17, 467.*

Metropolitan Police

Dublin—Amount raised by means of Police Rate for maintenance of the Dublin Police, Return Ordered, *July 16, 358 ; Presented July 23, 1003.*

Pensioners, Arrangements with those who undertook to do duty for twenty-eight days during Coronation Festivities.

Q. July 21, 775.

Uniform—Issue of Serge Trousers for Summer Wear, proposed.

Q. July 21, 774.

Metropolitan Railway Bill

l. Report July 15, 217.*

3R. July 21, 725.*

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 25, 1261.*

Metropolitan Water Companies

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Mexborough and Swinton Tramways Bill

c. Report July 15, 237.*

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Midland Railway Bill

l. 3R. July 14, 69.*

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 18, 666.*

Midland Railway [Steam Vessels] Bill*

l. 3R. July 14, 69.*

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 18, 666.

Midwives Bill

l. 3R. July 11, 4.*

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 21, 876.*

Mildmay, Mr. F. B. [Devon, Totnes]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 28, 1479.*

Military College, Sandhurst

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Military Education

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Militia

Artillery—Army Corps Organisation Proposals as to Volunteer Field Artillery, Change of Opinion in favour of Militia Field Artillery.

Os. Sir C. Dilke, July 17, 613 ; Mr. Brodrick, 613.

Examination in March, Programme for—Restoration of Tactics to the course proposed.

Q. July 25, 1267.

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Kirby, S., Prosecution for Begging—Reasons for dealing with Case Summarily.

Q. July 14, 122.

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Cape Colony, Suspension of the Constitution—Public Statements of Lord Milner's Views.

Qs. July 24, 1152 ; July 28, 1352.

Transvaal Mines—Chamber of Mines of Johannesburg, Lord Milner's Statement to Deputation—Laying Report on the Table proposed.

Q. July 22, 904.

Milvain, Mr. T. [Hampstead]

Brompton and Piccadilly Railway (New Lines, etc.) Bill, *2R. July 16, 439.*

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Electricity, Use of—Means of avoiding Loss of Life and Injury, Government Decision.

Q. July 15, 251.

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Q. July 16, 359.

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Army—Education and Training of Officers. Condemnatory Report of Committee of Inquiry—Appointment of Inspector-General of Military Education, proposed, *July 17, 470, 504.*

Montagu, Mr. J. Scott [Hants, New Forest]

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Montreux

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Q. July 17, 511.

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Moon, Mr. E. R. P. [St. Pancras, N.]

Consular Service—Absence of Representative in Bolivia, Value of Consular Reports, etc., *July 15*, 288, 298.

Mooney, Mr. J. J. [Dublin Co., S.]

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Dublin, New College of Science—Name of Architect, *July 14*, 124.

Education—Equivalent Grants, Withholding from certain Technical Schools, *July 14*, 120.

Moore, Mr. A.

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Q. July 23, 1018.

Moore, Mr. W. [Antrim, N.]

Ireland.

Cork Court House—United Irish League holding Meeting in County Council Chamber, *July 23*, 1015, 1017.

Government Policy—Orange Dissatisfaction, Suppression of Orange Demonstration at Ros-trevor, Government tendency to favour Nationalists at expense of their own supporters, etc., *July 23*, 1057, 1059, 1060.

Scarva—Ambulance Van stopped on Highway by Mob, *July 23*, 1017.

Moray Firth

Trawling.

Closing the Firth against Foreign as well as British Trawlers, Instructions to British Representative at International Fishery Conference.

Q. July 24, 1143.

Foreign Trawlers in—Date of Issue of Return.

Q. July 14, 104.

Morgan, Mr. D. J. [Essex, Walthamstow]

London United Electric Railways Bill, 2R. *July 16*, 453.

Morgan, Mr. Lloyd [Carmarthen, W.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 16*, 397; *July 22*, 943.

Volunteers.

Harsh Treatment for Failure to attend Camp—Dismissal of Corporal in the Carmarthen Volunteers, *July 17*, 612.

Provisional Camps, Dates and places of, *July 15*, 250.

Morley, Mr. O. [Brecknock]

Education Statistics—Number of boys and girls educated in Public Elementary Schools, Omission of Figures from new Volume of Statistics, *July 23*, 1009.

Morley, Rt. Hon. J. [Montrose Burghs] Ireland.

Government Policy, Attack on—Charges against the Constabulary, Mr. Wyndham's Action in regard to Ex-Sergeant Sheridan, Land Purchase Question, Revival of Coercion, etc., *July 23*, 1075; *July 24*, 1224, 1228, 1229, 1231, 1235, 1242.

Public Meetings, Suppression of—Number of Meetings suppressed during Mr. Morley's Chief Secretaryship.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1081; *July 24*, 1236, 1240.

Morocco

British Consuls, Withdrawal of, alleged.

Os. Mr. Yoxa l, July 15, 288; Mr. Labouchere, 290.

Future of—Communications between Italian, French and Spanish Governments for establishment of Latin League, etc.

Q. July 21, 773.

Morrow, Police Sergeant

Insanity of—Transfer to Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Maintenance Charge.

Q. July 17, 514.

Moss, Mr. S. [Denbighshire, E.]

Education [England and Wales] Bill, *com. July 16*, 387.

Moulton, Mr. J. F. [Cornwall, Launceston]

London Water Bill, *re-com. July 11*, 44, 45.

Municipal Corporations

Boroughs.

Changes in Acreage since 1888—Return proposed.

Q. July 24, 1146.

Population Statistics—Number having Population exceeding that of the Urban District of Merthyr Tydvil.

Q. July 17, 512.

Charters, Applications for—Return Presented, *July 18*, 668.

Murnaghan, Mr. G. [Tyrone, Mid]

Magheralough, Delay in Widening Road, *July 28*, 1349.

Murray, James

Lendy Estate, Rhodesia—Delay in realising Assets of Estate of late J. Murray. *Q. July 28*, 1352.

Murray, Mr. A. W. C. O.

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Murray, Rt. Hon. A. G.—Lord Advocate
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Deer Forests.

Achanault Forest—Acreage not quoted in Amended Return of 1899, *July 17*, 521.

Applecross Forest, Area of—Assessors testing Accuracy of Information by Personal Inquiry, proposed, *July 22*, 908.

Auchnashellach Forest—Acreage not stated in last Return, *July 21*, 775.

Park Deer Forest, Ross-shire, Acreage of—Inaccurate Return, alleged, *July 14*, 117.

Education.

Distribution of Secondary Education Funds, Equivalent Grant, Training of Teachers, Financial Exemption of Highland Schools, etc., *July 15*, 321, 323, 327, 333.

Equivalent Grant, Application of, etc., *July 14*, 117.

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Companies Provisional Order—Facilities for Consideration during Autumn Sitting, proposed, *July 28*, 1361.

Port of Ness Harbour, Removal of Accumulated Sand—Fishermen offering Six Days Free Labour, Expediting Decision of Congested Districts Board, *July 22*, 909.

Royal Proclamations, Conserving Rights of Royal Burghs—Memorial from Convention of Royal Burghs, *July 21*, 776.

Musical Copyright Bill

- c. Lords' Amendts. con.* *July 15*, 237.
- l. Royal Assent, *July 22*, 877.

Muzzling Order

Wales, Rabies Outbreak among Hounds of Pembrokeshire Hunt—Muzzling Order, Leniency towards Owners of Hounds alleged.

Q. July 22, 907.

Naas

Guardians, Use of Room in Workhouse provided for Custody of Registrar's Records—Refusal of Consent by Registrar General.

Q. July 22, 910.

Nannetti, Mr. J. P. [Dublin, College Green]
Ireland.

Bankruptcy Court Official Assignee, Mr. McIntyre, appearing at Prosecutions as Handwriting Expert, *July 23*, 1018.

Lights Board—Employment of Light-keepers to do Artisans' Work, Scale of Payment—Compliance with Fair Wage Resolution, *July 23*, 1020, 1021.

Natal

Martial Law, Date of Abolition.

Q. July 21, 769.

Transvaal Territory, Transfer to Natal—Amount transferred, Dissatisfaction amongst the Dutch—Maintaining Transvaal intact for Administration, proposed.

Q. July 24, 1152.

National Board of Education, Ireland

Marlborough Street College, Dublin—Tenders for Construction of New Lecture Theatre, Board passing over Roman Catholic Contractors, alleged.

Q. July 24, 1155.

Resignation of Archbishop Walsh, Delay in filling Vacancy.

Q. July 23, 1019.

National Education, Ireland

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National Gallery, Scotland

Grant for Purchase of Pictures, Equal Treatment with Ireland, proposed.

Q. July 25, 1266.

National School Teachers, Ireland

Irish Language, Examination of Teachers—Assimilating Rules to those for Examination of Teachers in Welsh.

Q. July 21, 777.

National Scouts

Enlistment of Boers in the South African Constabulary.

Q. July 22, 904.

Naughton, J.

Under-age Recruit—Discharge, proposed.

Q. July 23, 1011.

Naval Store Office, Chatham

Storehousemen's Petition to the Admiralty, Delay in Reply.

Q. July 22, 906.

Naval Works

Estimated Cost and Expenditure—Copy of Statement Presented, *July 21*, 762.

Navy

First Lord—Earl of Selborne.

Secretary—Mr. H. O. Arnold-Forster.

Civil Lord—Mr. E. G. Pretyman

Chaplains—Roman Catholic Chaplains, Authority consulted on Appointments and Remuneration.

Q. July 28, 1354.

Coronation Review, Invitations to Members of Parliament, Colonial Premiers, etc.—Facilities for inspecting Fleet, etc.

Q. July 28, 1345.

Expenditure—Works, Copy of Estimated Cost and Expenditure Presented, *July 21*, 762.

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Navy—cont.**Gunnery.**

Names of two best heavy gunshots on each station. Publication of, proposed.

Q. July 28, 1354.

Pay of Gun Captains, Additions to.

Q. July 28, 1355.

Prizes—Encouragement of Good Gunnery, Increasing Amount of Money Prizes, proposed.

Q. July 18, 668.

Lieutenants on Coastguard Service—Income Tax charged on all pay, Visiting allowance formerly not subject to Income Tax.

Q. July 22, 896.

“London”—Breakdown of Machinery.

Q. July 28, 1345.

Officers holding Civil Employment of Profit under Public Departments—Return Presented, *July 28, 1332, 1341.*

Ships commissioned at Chatham, Portsmouth and Devonport — Return Ordered, *July 24, 1141.*

Works—Estimated Cost and Expenditure, Copy of Statement, Presented, *July 21, 762.*

Nenagh

Labourers' Cottages, Rejection of Applications of Castletown Labourers—District Council Resolution.

Q. July 21, 781.

Netherlands South African Railway Company

Action in connection with the South African War—Finding of the Transvaal Concessions Commission, Position of H.M. Government in regard to Shareholders, etc.

Os. Earl of Camperdown, July 18, 640; Lord Stanley of Alderley, 642; Earl of Onslow, 643.

British Government paying arrears of Interest, proposed.

Q. July 22, 900.

New Forest (Sale of Lands for Public Purposes) Bill

l. 2R. July 18, 639.

com. July 22, 881.*

Report July 21, 725; July 22, 881.*

3R. July 24, 1124.*

New Kilmainham

Urban Council Final Audit of Accounts, Solicitor presenting Bills for opposing Dublin Boundaries Bill—Dublin Corporation discharging share of Liabilities, etc.

Q. July 15, 243.

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Devlin, J., for the County of Kilkenny (North Division), *July 22, 914.*

New Peers Introduced

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Colville of Culross, Vis., *July 25, 1253.*

Grenfell, Baron, *July 22, 879.*

Redesdale, Baron, *July 24, 1121.*

New Writs for Parliamentary Elections

Lancaster, County of, North East (Clitheroe Division), *July 25, 1263.*

Leeds, Borough of (North Division), *July 21, 791.*

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation Tramways Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 22, 878.

Newdigate, Mr. F. A. [Warwickshire, Nuneaton]

Leyds, Dr., Preventing Return to South Africa, *July 23, 1011.*

Newnes, Sir G. [Swansea Town]

Africa, South, Active Service Volunteers, Permission to obtain discharge and remain in South Africa, *July 16, 367.*

Twelve o'clock Rule, Suspension of—Forcing through Clause 7 of the Education Bill, *July 28, 1395.*

Newport Corporation Bill

l. 3R. July 21, 725.*

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 25, 1261.*

Newton, Lord

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill, *com. July 28, 1329, 1330.*

Newtownhamilton

Police Barracks—Head Constable holding Religious Demonstrations, alleged.

Q. July 21, 778.

Newry

Orangeman prosecuted on charge of firing with intent to maim, Magistrates refusing information.

Q. July 21, 779.

O. Mr. MacVeagh, July 23, 1056.

Presbyterian Clergyman attacked by Nationalist Mob, alleged.

Q. July 21, 780.

Nitrate Railways Company

Coal Duty—Customs refusing to remit Duty on pre-Budget Contract.

Q. July 17, 520.

Nolan, Col. J. P. [Galway, N.]

Clifden—Necessity for Harbour at Doughbeg, *July 21, 781.*

Loans—Local Loans, Rate of Interest—Lowest rate charged on any Loan advanced from the Treasury, *July 22, 896.*

Marine Works (Ireland) Bill Permitting Money to be used for works on larger Irish Lakes—Amendment Proposed, *July 23, 1015.*

Norfolk

Evening School Grant, Delay in payment, alleged.

Q. July 21, 767.

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North British Railway (General Powers) Bill

- c. Lords' Amendments. *con.* July 14, 98.*
- l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 879.*

North British Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill.

- l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 878.*

North-Eastern Railway Bill

- l. 3R.* *July 21, 725.*
- c. Lords' Amendments. *con.* July 25, 1261.*

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill

- l. 3R.* *July 15, 217.*
- c. Lords' Amendments. *con.* July 21, 760.*

North Metropolitan Tramways Bill

- l. Report* *July 11, 2.*
- 3R.* *July 21, 725.*
- c. Lords' Amendments. *con.* July 25, 1261.*

North Sea

Fisheries, Scientific Investigation — Authority responsible for portion of Programme not under supervision of Scottish Fishery Board.
Q. *July 24, 1144.*

North Staffordshire Tramways Bill

- c. Report* *July 24, 1138.*

North-West London Railway Bill

- c. 2R. *July 16, 457.*
- Report* *July 23, 1339.*

North-Western District Post Office

Inspector, Age Retirement—Retention of Mr. E. Stump in the Service.
Q. *July 23, 1346.*

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill

- c. *con. July 22, 972.*
- 3R.* *July 23, 1338.*

Northbrook, Earl of

Education Act, 1901 (Renewal) Bill, 2R.
July 28, 1336.

Licensing Bill, *com. July 21, 741.*

Northcote, Sir Stafford

Tax-bearing Capacity of Ireland as compared with other parts of the United Kingdom, Sir S. Northcote's Statement.

O. Mr. Clancy, *July 25, 1271.*

Northumberland Electric Tramways Bill

- l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 878.*

Norton, Capt. C. W. [Newington, W.]

Army.

Clothing Factory.

Pressing Irons, Scarcity of—Delay in Issue of Garments to Piece Workers, alleged, *July 24, 1148.*

Volunteer Employees' Camp Training—Granting Leave with Pay, proposed, *July 24, 1148.*

Norton, Capt. C. W.—cont.

Army—cont.

Recruiting—Diminution in Number of Recruits, alleged, *July 15, 250.*

London Water Bill, *re-com. July 11, 10, 11, 13, 47, 48, 49, 51, 63; July 18, 679, 681, 688.*

Metropolitan Police.

Pensioners, Arrangements with those who undertook to do duty for 28 days during Coronation Festivities, *July 21, 775.*

Uniform—Issue of Serge Trousers for Summer Wear, proposed, *July 21, 774.*

Naval Store Office, Chatham—Storehouse-men's Petition to the Admiralty, Delay in Reply, *July 22, 906.*

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, *con. July 22, 974.*

Railways.

Automatic Couplings—Trial of Inventions, *July 14, 116.*

Brakes.

Either-Side Brakes, Trials of—Representation of Board of Trade, etc., *July 23, 1013.*

Single Lever Class of Brakes, Adoption of—Railway Companies Appeal, Upholding Board of Trade Rules, *July 23, 1012.*

Passenger Accommodation—Board of Trade Inquiries, Legislation proposed, *July 14, 116.*

South African War.

Conduct of the War, General Inquiry—Composition of Royal Commission, etc., *July 21, 772.*

Gratuities to Home-coming Soldiers, Payment through Local Post Offices, *July 22, 905.*

Telegraph Service—Central Office Employees, Senior Duties delegated to Junior Officers, etc., *July 14, 105.*

Norwich Corporation (Electricity, etc.) Bill

- l. 3R.* *July 14, 69.*
- c. Lords' Amendments. *con.* July 18, 666.*

Nottingham Corporation Bill

- c. Report* *July 24, 1138.*

Nottingham and Retford Railway Bill

- c. Lords' Amendments. *con.* July 14, 98.*
- l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 879.*

Nurses

South African War—Granting Medals, etc., to Nurses.
Q. *July 22, 900.*

Reward for Army and Volunteer Nurses other than South African War Medal, etc.
Q. *July 23, 1351.*

O'Brien, Mr. P. [Kilkenny]

Bath Telegraphists holding Dual Increment desiring to relinquish Increment and return to former Positions—Places filled up, Transference to another Town, *July 16*, 360.

Sheridan, Ex-Sergeant, Malicious Injury, Charges against—Date of entering Constabulary Force, Counties and Police Districts in which Sheridan was stationed, etc., *July 14*, 123, 124.

O'Brien, Mr. P. J. [Tipperary, N.]

Coronation Stands near Westminster Bridge, Inconvenience to Members, Removal of Stand, proposed, *July 14*, 115, 116.

Nenagh Labourers' Cottages, Rejection of Applications of Castletown Labourers—District Council Resolution, *July 21*, 781.

O'Brien, Mr. W. [Cork]

Ireland, Attack on Government Policy—Charges against the Constabulary, Sheridan a typical Case, alleged, Mr. Wyndham's Attack on Mr. Russell, Revival of Coercion, Land Purchase Question, etc., *July 24*, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1222, 1223, 1244, 1245, 1246.

O'Connor, Mr. J. [Wicklow, W.]

Horses for the Army, Purchase of, Action against Major Studdert for Breach of Contract, Removal of Major Studdert from Commission of the Peace, *July 17*, 522.

Ireland.

Boosterstown—Sergeant Morrow declared insane, Maintenance Charge, *July 17*, 514.

Brehon Laws—Continental Libraries, Containing Tracts bearing on the Laws, Employment of Scholar to visit Libraries, proposed, *July 14*, 126.

Wicklow County.

Land Purchase—Number of Tenant Purchasers, etc., *July 14*, 121.

Magistrate—Number of Roman Catholics, *July 14*, 121; *July 17*, 522.

Works, Board of—Employees having Salaries above £400 a year, Number of Roman Catholics promoted, etc., *July 14*, 125.

O'Connor, Mr. T. P. [Liverpool, Scotland]

Education [England and Wales] Bill, *com. July 14*, 149, 181; *July 22*, 935.

Financial Relations between Great Britain and Ireland—Over-Taxation of Ireland, alleged, *July 25*, 1315.

Odessa

British Consulate—Removal from the Commercial Quarter.

O. Mr. Yoxall, *July 15*, 287.

O'Donnell, Mr. T. [Kerry, W.]

Ireland.

Basket Islands, Delay in Construction of Pier, Facilities for Communication with the Shore, etc., *July 28*, 1362.

Dingle Fishing Industry, Support of—Congested Districts Board reply to Fishermen's Petition, *July 24*, 1156.

Local Taxation Account—Disposal of Unexpended Balances, *July 21*, 779; *July 28*, 1364.

Oldham, Gentleman-Cadet Corporal J.S.

Rustication from Sandhurst—Evidence of Connection with outbreak of Fire, etc.

Q. *July 15*, 248.

Omagh Urban District Gas Bill

c. Lords Amendts. *con.* July 17*, 506.

O'Malley, Mr. W. [Galway, Connemara]

Ireland.

Connemara Foreshore Rights, Remission of Fines for Cutting Sea Weed, proposed—Safeguarding Crown Interests, *July 24*, 1159.

Education of Non-English Speaking Inhabitants of Galway, Provision for, *July 17*, 514.

O'Mara, Mr. J. [Kilkenny, S.]

Constabulary, Royal Irish—Bogus discoveries of Illicit Stills, alleged, Insufficient Inquiry, Small Number of Prosecutions, etc., *July 15*, 341, 344.

Omnibuses

Accident in St. John's Wood Road—Inquiry into Cause of frequent Accidents proposed.

Q. *July 14*, 115.

Onslow, Earl of—*Parliamentary Secretary to the Colonial Office.*

Africa, South—Land Settlement Schemes, Acquisition of Land by the Government, Terms to Settlers, Settlement of Women, etc., *July 15*, 228.

Canada, Immigration of Farmers from the United States, *July 25*, 1257.

Netherlands South African Railway Company, Action in Connection with the South African War—Finding of the Transvaal Concessions Commission, Position of H.M. Government in regard to Shareholders, etc., *July 18*, 643.

Opium

Ceylon, Increase in Number of Opium Shop Licences—Diminishing Facilities for spread of Opium Habit proposed.

Q. *July 15*, 245.

July 11—July 28.

Orange Demonstrations

Dromore, Nature of Gathering — "Paid Tag Rag and Bobtail."

O. Mr. MacVeagh, *July 23*, 1055.

Raphoe — Post Office Messenger taking Part in Orange Procession.

Q. *July 24*, 1159.

Rostrevor

Police, Magistrates' Requisition for Extra Police — Employment of larger Force than that asked for.

Q. *July 21*, 778.

Suppression of Orange Demonstration — Orange Dissatisfaction with Mr. Wyndham's Management of Irish Affairs, etc.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1043, 1052, 1054, 1055, 1059, 1068, 1113, 1117; *July 24*, 1201.

Tullyhogue, Orange Disturbance—Establishment of Police Barrack, etc., proposed.

Q. *July 16*, 370.

Warrenpoint

Police, Magistrates' Requisition for extra Police — Employment of larger Force than that asked for.

Q. *July 21*, 778.

Processionists discharging Firearms along Line of Route.

Q. *July 16*, 362.

O. Mr. MacVeagh, *July 23*, 1056.

Orange Party, Ireland

Armed Orangemen, Danger of permitting Revolvers, etc., to be carried at Demonstrations.

O. Mr. MacVeagh, *July 23*, 1056.

Dissatisfaction with Mr. Wyndham's Management of Irish Affairs.

Observations in Com. of Supply, July 23, 1045, 1052, 1054, 1057, 1061, 1113, 1119.

Oranmore and Browne, Lord

Took the Oath, *July 17*, 465.

Oregon

Trade Report Presented *July 21*, 726.

Orkney

Foreshore Fishery, Sale of Crown Rights — Price paid, etc.

Qs. *July 17*, 519; *July 25*, 1264.

Orphan Asylums

Maintenance and Efficiency of—Obligations of Local Authorities under Clause 8 of the Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Q. *July 14*, 111.

Orpington, Cudham and Tatsfield Light Railway

Order Presented, *July 22*, 882, 895.

O'Shaughnessy, Mr. P. T. [Limerick, W.] Ireland.

Butter, Treatment in Transit—Complaints, *July 18*, 669.

Rathkeale.

Cattle Fair, Insufficient Railway Accommodation for buyers—Inquiry, *July 23*, 1019.

Mail Service—Inconvenience caused by earlier time of departure of Mails, *July 21*, 784.

Ough, Corporal

Dismissal from the Volunteers for omission to Salute Superior Officer—Right of Appeal, etc.

Observations on the Estimates, July 17, 607, 610, 611.

Owen, Rev. H. F.

Case of—Ecclesiastical Dilapidations at Trefor Traian.

Os. Lord Stanley of Alderley, *July 22*, 882, 886; Duke of Devonshire, 885.

Oxford University

Statutes Presented, *July 18*, 639, 667
July 21, 727.

Oyster and Mussel Fishery Provisional Orders Bill

l. Royal Assent, *July 22*, 877.

Pacific Cable Bill

c. *l.r.* July 21*, 791.

Paisley Gas Provisional Order Confirmation Bill

l. Royal Assent, *July 22*, 878.

Panna, Maharajah of

Deposition—Publication of Papers, proposed.

Q. *July 16*, 364.

Parcel Post

China—British Parcels paying Customs Duty, Exemption of German and French Parcels.

Q. *July 24*, 1147.

Parish Councils

Fire Hydrants, Provision and Maintenance of—Auditors disallowing Payments.

Q. *July 25*, 1265.

Parker, Sir G. [Gravesend]

Yeomanry, Imperial—Furlough of Thirty Days given to Men employed in 1900 and 1901, Unequal Treatment of Yeomanry employed in 1899, alleged, *July 21*, 768.

Parkes, Mr. E. [Birmingham, Central]

Africa, South—Foreign Nations absorbing Bulk of Trade, alleged, Assisting British Manufacturers to obtain share, *July 24*, 1151.

July 11—July 28.

Parliament**House of Commons.**

Military Discipline, Effect of House of Commons reviewing Decisions of the Military Authorities.

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New Member Sworn—J. Devlin, for the County of Kilkenny (North Division), *July 22, 914.*

New Writs, *see that title.*

House of Lords.

Leadership of the House—Resignation of Lord Salisbury, Duke of Devonshire undertaking Duties of Leadership.

Debate [Lords], July 14, 71.

New Peers Introduced, *see that title.*

Representative Peer for Ireland—Lord Oranmore and Browne, *July 14, 69.*

Sat First—Lord Tenterden, *July 22, 879.*

Took the Oath.

Minto, Earl of, *July 14, 69.*

Oranmore and Browne, Lord, *July 17, 465.*

Parliamentary Elections

Boroughs, Increase in Number of Electors under Clause 1 (3) of London Elections Bill—Return Presented, *July 24, 1140.*

Parliamentary Papers

Printing of, Person Responsible for.
Q. July 14, 111.

Parliamentary Procedure**Bills.**

Carrying over to the next Session Bills proceeded with but not completed in the previous Session—Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Provisional Order Bill.
Q. July 23, 1007.

Public Bills affecting Private Rights, Referring to Joint Committee.

Observations in Debate on London Water Bill, July 11, 13, 14.

Joint Committee presided over by a Member of the House of Lords—Question as to Right of House of Commons to criticise Proceedings.

Os. Mr. Macrae, July 18, 707; Mr. J. W. Lowther, Sir R. Reid, 708.

New Rules—Strain of the Earlier Meeting and Later Sitting, Automatic Provision of Time for Government Business, Incomplete State of the Rules.

Debate on Motion for Suspension of Twelve o'clock Rule, July 28, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1383, 1385, 1404.

Parliamentary Procedure—cont.

Twelve o'clock Rule Exemption from Standing Order—Alteration in Form of Motion in order to preserve the Dinner Interval under the new Procedure Rules.

Debate (Commons), July 28, 1372, 1373, 1378, 1379, 1401.

Patent Law Amendment Bill

c. Report July 28, 1371.*

Paulton, Mr. J. M. [Durham, Bishop Auckland] North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, *con. July 22, 979.*

Pauper Children, Ireland

Boarding-out System, Lady Inspectors, Objections to Appointment of Protestant Lady Inspector.

Os. Mr. T. W. Russell, July 23, 1099; Mr. J. Morley, July 24, 1226.

Pauper Children (Ireland) Bill

c. com. July 14, 216.*

com. July 15, 355.

Report and 3R. July 15, 355.*

l. Royal Assent, July 22, 877.

Paupers

Domicile—Removal of Collins Family from Glasgow to Halifax without evidence of Birth, Halifax Guardians' Appeal, etc.

Q. July 21, 764.

Surgical Operations—Administration of Anesthetics, Payment to Medical Officer, etc.

Q. July 17, 511.

Pease, Mr. J. A. [Essex, Saffron Walden]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 21, 868; July 28, 1503, 1505, 1506.*

Pease, Sir J. [Durham, Barnard Castle]

Ceylon, Increase in Number of Opium Shop Licences, *July 15, 245.*

Peel, Mr. W. R. W. [Manchester, S.]

London United Electric Railways Bill, *2R. July 16, 450, 455.*

London Water Bill, *re-com. July 11, 17.*

Peers

Representative Peer for Ireland—Lord Oranmore and Browne, *July 14, 69.*

Took the Oath.

Minto, Earl of, *July 14, 69.*

Oranmore and Browne, Lord, *July 17, 465.*

Pembrokeshire Hunt

Rabies Outbreak among Hounds—Muzzling Order, Leniency towards Owners of Hounds, alleged.

Q. July 22, 907.

July 11—July 28.

Perks, Mr. R. W. [Lincolnshire, Louth]Great Northern and Strand Railway Bill.
2R. *July 16*, 443.**Perrin, Mr.**Metropolitan Water Board, Mr. Perrin's
Recommendations as to.*Os.* Mr. W. Long, *July 11*, 26, 28.**Persia**Mekran, Services of Indian Native Troops
in 1898 and 1902—Granting Medals.*Q.* *July 23*, 1006.Railway Extension — Correspondence
between the Indian Government and
Projectors of Railways, Laying on the
Table of the House.*Q.* *July 14*, 107.Trade—Quetta-Nushki Railway, Date of
Completion of Survey—Opportunity
for Consideration of Scheme by
Council of India, etc.*Q.* *July 24*, 1145.**Petitions**Public Petitions Committee Report Pre-
sented, *July 16*, 373.**Phoenix Park, Dublin**Disturbance created by Workmen hooting
Military Band, Measures to ensure
future peace.*Os.* Earl of Mayo, Earl of Denbigh,
July 25, 1258.Treasury Grant in lieu of Rates, Stoppage
of.*Qs.* *July 14*, 118, 119.**Piccadilly, City and North-East London
Railway Bill.***c.* 2R. *July 16*, 457.Instruction to Committee [*Mr. Peel*].
July 16, 457.**Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No.
1) Bill***l. com.** *July 24*, 1122.Report* *July 25*, 1254.3R.* *July 28*, 1331.**Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No.
2) Bill***l.* Royal Assent, *July 22*, 877.**Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No.
3) Bill***c.* Report* *July 14*, 99*com.** *July 15*, 235.*l.* 1R.* *July 15*, 218.2R.* *22* *July*, 881.*com.** *July 28*, 1331.**Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No.
4) Bill***l.* 2R.* *July 15*, 218.*com. and Report** *July 17*, 466.3R.* *July 22*, 881.**Piers and Harbours**

Ireland.

Clifden—Necessity for Harbour at
Doughbeg.*Q.* *21* *July*, 781.**Piers and Harbours—cont.**

Ireland—cont.

Fishery Piers, Construction and Re-
pair of—Amount of Public Money
expended, Return Ordered, *July*
17, 510.Kenmare Harbour Accommodation,
Improvements in—Allocation of
Money available under Marine
Works Bill, etc.*Q.* *July 28*, 1347.Kinvara Harbour, Including amongst
Places to be scheduled under
Marine Works Bill, proposed.*Q.* *July 28*, 1350.Piers and Harbours and Boatlips,
Sums expended on — Return
Ordered, *July 11*, 6.Scotland—Port of Ness Harbour, Removal
of Accumulated Sand—Fishermen
offering Six Days' Free Labour, Ex-
pediting Decision of Congested Dis-
tricts Board.*Q.* *July 22*, 909.**Pilotage Provisional Order Bill***l.* Royal Assent, *July 22*, 877.**Pimlico**Army Clothing Factory, *see* Army.**Pirie, Mr. D. V.** [Aberdeen, N.]Buller, Sir Redvers, Case of — Excessive
Publication of Telegrams and De-
patches, Objections to the Autocratic
System, etc., *July 17*, 581, 595.Business of the House—Course of Busi-
ness, *July 16*, 364.Horses for the Army, Purchase in Hungary,
Australia and America—Investiga-
tion into Proceedings of Remount
Purchasing Commissions, Government
Action, *July 22*, 899.**Plummer, Mr. W. R.** [Newcastle-on-Tyne]North and South Shields Electric Railway
Bill, *con.*, *July 22*, 972, 981.Volunteer Long Service Medal—Men
serving in other Forces, Reckoning
such Service towards Long Service
Medal, proposed, *July 11*, 8.**Police**Dublin Metropolitan Police, *see* Dublin.

Metropolitan Police.

Pensioners, Arrangements with those
who undertook to do duty for 28
days during Coronation Festivi-
ties.*Q.* *July 21*, 775.Uniform—Issue of Serge Trousers for
Summer Wear, proposed.*Q.* *July 21*, 774.**Police Expenses Bill***c.* 1R. *July 16*, 374.**Police Reservists Bill***l.* Royal Assent, *July 22*, 877.

July 11—July 28.

Police (Superannuation) Billc. 1R.* *July 16, 373.***Political Controversies**

Civil Servants taking part in—Treasury Minute of Nov. 12, 1884.

Embodying in Order-in-Council.

Q. July 17, 526.

Reprinting Treasury Minute, proposed.

Q. July 14, 112.

Military Officers taking part in—Capt. H. Wilson's Speech at Cradock, Cape Colony.

*Q. July 21, 769.***Political Demonstrations**

Postal Employees taking part in—Raphoe Rural Messenger playing in Band of Orange Procession.

*Q. July 24, 1159.***Poor Law Medical Officers**

Anæsthetics, Administration of to Paupers—Payment to Medical Officer, etc.

Q. July 17, 511.

Farr, Advertisement for Poor Law Medical Officer—Local Government Board Regulations.

*Q. July 24, 1141.***Population**Ireland—Census, Copy of Report with Appendix, presented, *July 21, 726, 762.*Statistics of Population in leading Foreign Countries—Copy of Memorandum Pre-ented *July 23, 1003; July 24, 1124.***Port of Ness Harbour**

Removal of Accumulated Sand, Fishermen offering six days free labour—Expediting Decision of Congested Districts Board.

*Q. July 22, 909.***Porto Alegre**Trade Report Presented, *July 21, 726.***Portpatrick and Wigtonshire Joint Railway Order Confirmation Bill**c. 1R.* *July 17, 506.*con.* *July 21, 761.*3R.* *July 23, 1001.*l. 1R.* *July 24, 1123.***Portugal**Trade Report, Presented *July 24, 1123.***Post Office**

Postmaster General—Marquess of Londonderry.

Representative in the House of Commons—Mr. Austen Chamberlain.

Buildings, Permitting Inspection by Factory Act Officials.

*Q. July 22, 900.***Post Office—cont.****Employees.**

Age Retirement—Retention of Mr. E. Stump at North-Western District Office.

Q. July 28, 1346.

Bideford Postman's Grievance—Granting Pension or Gratuity to Oliver Shuman, proposed.

Q. July 16, 370.

Political Demonstrations—Rural Messenger taking part in Orange Procession.

Q. July 24, 1159.

Summer Uniform and Headgear for Postmen, Provision of.

Q. July 14, 105.

Volunteers' Annual Training—Leave Regulations, Pay, etc.

*Q. July 14, 106.***Ireland.**

Carrickaleese—Letter containing Money Order, Delivery to wrong Person—Disposal of Letter.

Q. July 21, 765.

Killorbee Postal Arrangements—Delay in delivery of Letters to persons residing in the Townland.

Q. July 28, 1346.

Limerick and Tralee Mail Service—Inconvenience caused by Mail leaving Rathkeale earlier than formerly.

Q. July 21, 784.

Postmasterships—Number of Vacancies since Appointment of Lord Londonderry as Postmaster-General, Number of Roman Catholics appointed.

Q. July 14, 125.

Raphoe—Rural Messenger taking part in Orange Procession.

Q. July 24, 1159.

North-Western District Post Office Inspector, Age Retirement, Retention of Mr. E. Stump in the Service.

*Q. July 28, 1346.*Revenue and Expenditure from 1869-70 to 1901, with Estimate of the same for 1902—Return Ordered *July 24, 1140*—Presented *July 25, 1262.*

Telegraph Service, see that title.

Post Office Savings BankAccounts for 1901. Presented *July 14, 70, 101.*Deposits received and paid during year ended, Dec. 31, 1901—Accounts Presented *July 17, 468, 509.***Post Office Sites Bill**l. 2R. *July 17, 469.*con.* *July 28, 1332.*Report* *July 24, 1122; July 28, 1332.***Postmasterships, Ireland**

Number of Vacancies since Appointment of Lord Londonderry as Postmaster-General, Number of Roman Catholics appointed.

Q. July 14, 125.

July 11—July 28.

Postmen

Bideford Postman's Grievance—Granting Pension or Gratuity to Oliver Sluman, proposed.

Q. July 16, 370.

Summer Uniform and Headgear—Provision of.

Q. July 14, 105.

Powell, Sir F. S. [Wigan]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com.*
July 14, 156, 188; July 28, 1467.

Power, Mr. P. J. [Waterford, E.]

Congested Districts Board, Ireland—Date of Publication of Report, *July 21, 780.*

Preservatives and Colouring Matter in Food Committee

Eastbourne Sanitary Authority issuing Circular expressing intention of acting on Recommendations of Committee—Public Authorities awaiting Government Decision, proposed.

Q. July 15, 239.

Prestein Rifle Range

Unprotected Nature of—Closing Range, proposed.

Q. July 17, 515.

Pretyman, Capt. E. G. [Suffolk, Woodbridge]

Chatham Naval Storehousemen's Petition to the Admiralty, Delay in Reply, *July 22, 906.*

Prevention of Corruption Bill

l. 1R. July 24, 1124.*

Priestley, Mr. A. [Grantham]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com.*
July 14, 213; July 16, 375.

Prime Minister

Balfour, Mr. A. J.—Acceptance of Office.

*Os. Duke of Devonshire, July 14, 72;
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 127;
Mr. A. J. Balfour, 128.*

Salisbury, Marquess of—Resignation of.

*Debate (Lords), July 14, 71.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, July 14, 128.*

Prison Officers (Pensions) Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 22, 877.

Prison Warders, Ireland

Hours of Duty, Rate of Pay, etc.—Comparison between Irish and English Practice.

Q. July 24, 1157.

Number of Police Pensioners employed, etc.
Q. July 22, 910.

Adoption of System of Examinations for Promotions.

Q. July 16, 371.

Private Bill Legislation, Scotland

Highland and Invergarry and Fort Augustus Railway Provisional Order Bill, *see that title.*

Probate Court, Ireland

Accounts for 1901, Presented *July 21, 728, 762.*

Public Accounts

Committee Reports Presented *July 16, 373; July 28, 1328.*

Public Libraries (Ireland) Bill

c. con. and 3R. July 15, 356.*

l. 1R. July 17, 468.*

2R. July 25, 1255.*

com. and Report July 28, 1336.*

Public Offices (Dublin)

Advances out of the Consolidated Fund—*Motion* (Mr. A. Chamberlain), *July 15, 355.*

Public Offices (Dublin) Bill

Bill committed to Select Committee—*Motion* (Mr. A. Chamberlain) *July 15, 353.*

Hibernian Academy, Royal—Securing New Site, Adjacent to existing Art Buildings, Referring Claim to Committee on the Bill, proposed.

Q. July 23, 1020.

Public Petitions

Committee Report Presented *July 16, 373.*

Public Records

Ireland—Report for 1901 Presented *July 11, 3, 6.*

Supreme Court of Judicature Taxing Office—Documents of not sufficient value to justify Preservation—Schedule Presented, *July 25, 1255, 1263.*

Public Works Loans Bill

c. 1R. July 15, 257.*

Statement of Particulars of Loans to be remitted or written off—Copy Ordered, *July 15, 237—Presented July 16, 358.*

Queen Anne's Bounty

Amalgamation with Ecclesiastical Commission—Inquiry into Working of the Commission, Proceeding with Bill before the Inquiry.

Q. July 16, 371.

Queen Victoria Street Fire

Factory—Place not a Factory, Decision based on Insufficient Evidence.

Q. July 28, 1356

Queen's College

Galway—Annual Report Presented *July 15, 218, 236.*

Queen's Cottage Grounds, Kew

Opening to the Public.

Q. July 15, 252.

Questions in the House

Absence of Ministers—Waste of Time Alleged.

*O. Mr. MacNeill, July 16, 366;
July 17, 517.*

Q. July 21, 785.

July 11—July 28.

Quetta-Nushki Railway

Survey, Date of Completion—Opportunity for Consideration of Scheme by Council of India, etc.

Qs. July 14, 108; July 24, 1145.

Rabies

Pembrokeshire Hunt, Rabies Outbreak—Muzzling Order, Leniency towards Owners of Hounds, alleged.

Q. July 22, 907.

Raglan, Lord—Unc' Secretary of State for War

Education and Training of Officers—Army at a disadvantage as compared with the Navy, War Office intention to initiate Reforms, *July 17, 492.*

Railways

Accidents—Report Presented *July 28, 1332, 1340.*

Automatic Couplings—Trial of Inventions. *Q. July 14, 116.*

Brakes.

Either-side Brakes, Trials of—Representation of Board of Trade, etc.

Q. July 23, 1013.

Single-Lever Class of Brakes, Adoption of—Railway Companies' Appeal, Upholding Board of Trade Rules.

Q. July 23, 1012.

Capital, Traffic and Expenditure for 1901—General Report Presented, *July 17, 467, 508.*

India, *see that title.*

Ireland.

Butter—Treatment in Transit—Complaints.

Q. July 18, 669.

Letterkenny Railway—Dunfanaghy District Council Petition for remission of Tax paid by Rural District in respect of the Railway, etc.

Q. July 24, 1158.

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Q. July 18, 669.

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Q. July 28, 1366.

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Q. July 16, 370.

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Q. July 28, 1014.

Smith, Mr. H. C. [Northumberland, Tyneside]

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South African War

Buller, Sir Redvers, Case of, *see* sub-heading Ladysmith and title Buller.

Concentration Camps, Breaking up the Camps, Free Communication with the outside World, etc.
Q. July 21, 770.

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Q. July 11, 7.

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Q. July 22, 905.

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Buller's, Sir Redvers, Heliogram to Sir G. White, Publication of Accurate Version, Information as to Supplies in Ladysmith, etc.

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Martial Law.

Cape Colony and Natal, Abolition of
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Q. July 21, 769.

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*Debate on Motion for Adjourn-
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posed [Mr. Coghill] July
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Nurses—Granting Medals, etc., to.
Q. July 22, 900.

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African War Medal, etc.
Q. July 28, 1351.

Yeomanry, Imperial, landing in South
Africa after 31st May not entitled
to Medals—Exception in case of
Yeomanry raised under Army
Order of 9th Jan., proposed.
Q. July 28, 1350.

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O. Dr. Farquharson, July 17, 622.

“Military Notes on the Dutch Republics
in South Africa”—Laying Copy on
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Q. July 15, 246.

National Scouts, Enlistment in the South
African Con-tibulary.

Q. July 22, 904.

Netherlands South African Railway Com-
pany, Action of—Finding of the
Transvaal Concessions Commission,
Position of H.M. Government in
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*Os. Earl of Camperdown, July 18,
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642; Earl of Onslow, 643.*

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Q. July 17, 515.

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Q. July 18, 670.

Peace, Terms of—Vereeniging Resolution
of Boer Delegates, Lord Kitchener's
Speech, etc.—Laying Copies on the
Table, proposed.
Q. July 22, 904.

Prisoners, Repatriation of.

Estimate for Repatriation, Date of
Discussion, etc.
Q. July 22, 901.

Prisoners ready to take Oath of
Allegiance and pay Expenses, etc.
Q. July 16, 363.

Return of Troops—Claims of Essex
Regiment for Early Return.
Q. July 22, 899.

Spion Kop—Sir C. Warren, Opportunity
of Defence against the criticism of
Sir Redvers Bullers on the action at
Spion Kop.

*Os. Mr. C. Lowther, July 17, 579;
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Freight, etc.
Q. July 28, 1351.

Victoria Cross, Distribution to Relatives
of Deceased Soldiers.
Q. July 17, 517.

Volunteers—Settlement in South Africa,
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Q. July 16, 367.

White, Sir G., War Office Efforts to
supersede—Frustration by Sir Redvers
Buller, alleged.
Q. July 15, 246.

Yeomanry, Imperial.

Ambulance used for conveyance of
Officers' Clothing and Luxuries,
alleged.
*O. Mr. H. C. Richards, July
17, 603.*

Edmondson, R. — Detention under
arrest from July, 1900 to Feb.,
1901, without Trial.
Q. July 22, 899.

Furlough of Thirty Days given to
men employed in 1900 and 1901—
Unequal Treatment of Yeomanry
employed in 1899, alleged.
Q. July 21, 768.

Medals—Yeomanry landing in South
Africa after May 31, not entitled
to Medals, Exception in case of
Yeomanry raised under Army
Order of Jan. 9, proposed.
Q. July 28, 1350.

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South-Eastern and Chatham Railway Company

Excess Luggage—Route to Continent, Board of Trade insisting that each excess luggage ticket shall distinguish amount levied for transit in England, and amount for sea passage, etc., proposed.

Q. July 18, 669.

South-Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railway Bill

c. con. July 16, 357.*

3r. July 21, 760.*

South Metropolitan Gas Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 22, 878.

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l. Royal Assent, July 22, 878.

Southport and Lytham Tramroad Bill

l. 3r. July 11, 2.*

c. Lords' Amendts. con. July 17, 506.*

Spain

Gibraltar, Proposals for erection of Fortifications on Spanish Territory encircling Gibraltar—Provision against Erection, Anglo-Spanish Relations, etc.

Q. July 22, 906.

Mediterranean, Political Situation in—Communications between Italian, French and Spanish Governments for establishment of Latin League, etc.

Q. July 21, 773.

Trade Report Presented July 17, 467.

Speaker—Rt. Hon. W. C. Gully [Carlisle]

Adjournment of the House, Motion for

Judges, Conduct or Character of, could not be discussed on a Motion for Adjournment, July 22, 913.

South Africa, Courts—Martial Commission—Not a definite matter of urgent public importance within the meaning of the Standing Order, Much too wide a Question to be discussed on such a Motion—The Member might ask leave of the House, but if it were granted, he must confine himself strictly to the composition of the Commission, *July 23, 1370.*

Amendment to Motion—Subsequent Amendments would be necessary to make the proposed Amendment work satisfactorily with the Rules of the House, *July 23, 1401, 1402.*

Bills

Bills dealing with a group of Tube Railways—It was not in order to discuss the merits of the particular Bills which followed the Bill under discussion, *July 16, 439.*

Speaker—cont.**Bills—cont.**

Copy of Bill supplied to the Speaker in which the Commons' Amendments had not been entered up—The last Amendment was therefore perfectly in order and in its right place—It need not affect the decision of the House, if it were permitted to insert the words in Section 63 instead of Section 59—If the matter had been properly dealt with by the Officers of the House the difficulty would not have arisen, *July 22, 981, 982, 983.*

Instructions to Committees—Instructions out of Order, etc.

Instruction was not in the nature of an Instruction, but rather of a destructive Second Reading Amendment to the Whole Bill, and it would raise a Second Reading Debate on the whole principle of the Bill, July 11, 9.

Mandatory Instruction to inquire into a matter which no party before the Committee was in a position to bring forward—Omission of words "so as to make it inexpedient to pass the Bill"—Bad precedent to insert such words, July 18, 664.

Ordering Promoters of several Bills to put their heads together and make an agreement was obviously beyond the power of the Committee, July 16, 442.

Interruptions in Debate and Remarks when there was no Business before the House—Disorderly method, July 16, 366.

Irrelevant Observations.

East End Traffic, Relief of—Discussion of, on Baker Street and Waterloo Railway, July 16, 433, 434.

Financial Relations, England and Ireland.

Discussing whole Economic Condition of Ireland, etc., July 25, 1298.

Giving detailed Statistics as to Population, July 25, 1296.

South Africa—Courts-Martial Commission, July 23, 1445, 1446, 1448.

Standing Orders, Amendment of—Discussing on North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, July 22, 976.

Transit, Rapid Means of—General Question could not be discussed on North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, July 22, 974.

Twelve o'clock Rule, Exemption from Standing Order, July 23, 1404.

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Speaker—cont.

Irrelevant Observations—cont.

Twelve o'clock Rule—cont.

Bury Election, Discussion of, *July 28, 1391.*

Ministry, Task of forming, *July 28, 1392.*

Session could not be reviewed upon the Motion, *July 28, 1383.*

Supply Rule, Debate with reference to Business after Twelve o'clock, *July 28, 1395.*

Judges, Criticism of, *July 22, 913; July 28, 1446, 1447.*

Questions.

Arguing the Question, *July 28, 1362.*

Notice of Question—Supplementary Question asking for further information, *July 15, 252; July 28, 1363.*

Supplementary Questions out of Order, *July 15, 248, 254; July 17, 522; July 21, 775; July 28, 1354.*

Speaking twice in the same Debate, *July 22, 988.*

Twelve o'clock Rule, Exemption from Standing Order, Alteration in Form of Motion.

Alteration of the Motion was in order, it somewhat diminished the stringency of the original Motion, *July 28, 1373.*

Motion as proposed would, it appeared, involve suspension of the Half-past Five Rule on Fridays, but the Speaker was not ruling on a Question of Order, it was for the House to decide the effect of a proposition laid before it, *July 28, 1380.*

Spencer, Earl

Anglo-Italian Understanding, Lapse of, due to new Franco-Italian Understanding, alleged—Effect on Position in the Mediterranean, *July 18, 650.*

Anglo-Japanese Treaty—Feeling in Japan caused by arrogance of Lord Cranborne's remarks, *July 18, 649, 659.*

China, Position in—Northern Railways, Tientsin Land Dispute, Evacuation of Tientsin, Position of Russia in Manchuria, Indemnity Question, Abolition of *Likin*, etc., *July 18, 644.*

Education Act, 1901 (Renewal) Bill. 2R. *July 28, 1336, 1337.*

Licensing Bill, 2R. *July 14, 95; com. July 21, 742, 748.*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill, *com. July 28, 1330.*

Salisbury, Lord, Resignation of, *July 14, 73.*

Standard Exploration Company

Company Frauds, alleged—Public Prosecutor taking Action, proposed. *Q. July 23, 1014.*

Stanley, Lord—Financial Secretary to the War Office [Lancashire, Westhoughton].

Hong Kong, Hospital Accommodation at—Discussing on Vote for War Office Salaries, *July 17, 601.*

Volunteers.

Camp Rules and Exemptions, Officers making good Drills in Camp. Use of Ammunition for Competitions, etc.—Reply to Questions and Comments, *July 17, 610.*

Dismissal for Failure to Attend Camp—Powers of Commanding Officers, Case of Corporal in Carmarthen Volunteers, *July 17, 612.*

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Horses—Defects of existing system of Supply, *July 17, 606.*

Increase in Establishment, Pay and Allowances, *July 17, 604.*

Stanley of Alderley, Lord

Cooper's Hill College—Unfair Treatment of Cooper's Hill Men, History of the College, Severance of connection with India, Injustice of charging India with Cost, etc., *July 24, 1124.*

Holyhead Nonconformist Voluntary School, Suppression by Board of Education due to "spite" of Sir J. Gorst, alleged, *July 25, 1259, 1261.*

North Wales, Ecclesiastical Dilapidations in—Case of Rev. H. F. Owen, Incumbent of Trefor Traian, *July 22, 883.*

Netherlands South African Railway Company—Action in connection with the South African War, *July 18, 642.*

Stevenson, Mr. F. S. [Suffolk, Eye]

Brussels Sugar Convention—Date of Ratification by House of Commons. *Q. July 14, 130.*

Stirling-Maxwell, Sir J. [Glasgow College]

Ben Nevis Observatory—Need for further pecuniary assistance, *July 17, 510.*

Food and Drugs Act Prosecutions, Successful Defendants bearing Expenses of Action—Case of Mr. J. Shaw, *July 24, 1142.*

Stonehaven Town Hall Order Confirmation Bill

c. 3R. * *July 11, 4.*

l. Royal Assent, *July 22, 878.*

Stornoway

Fishermen's Dwellings—Terms on which Congested Districts Board are prepared to feu Land, Amount of Land acquired. *Q. July 16, 362.*

Strachey, Sir E. [Somerset, S.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 28, 1414, 1420.*

Food and Drugs Acts Amendment Bill—Committee Stage, Date of taking *July 23, 1021.*

Strachey, Sir E.—cont.

Twelve o'clock Rule, Suspension of—
Taking Food and Drugs Bill before
the House rose, *July 28, 1897.*

Studdert, Major C. W.

Horses for the Army, Purchase of
Remounts—Action against Major
Studdert, *see* Horses for the Army—
Purchase of Remounts.

Stump, Mr. E.

Post Office, Age Retirement Regulations
—Retention of Mr. Stump at North-
Western District Office.
Q. July 28, 1846.

Sugar Bounties

Brussels Convention, Date of Ratification
by House of Commons.
Q. July 14, 180.

Sullivan, Sergeant

Charges of inciting to murder, etc.
*Os. Mr. Harrington, July 24, 1195 ;
Mr. W. O'Brien, 1217, 1219.*

Summer Assizes

Order in Council appointing Cardiff as
place for Summer Assizes, 1902,
Presented *July 28, 1332, 1341.*

Superannuation

Army and Navy Officers holding Civil
Employment of Profit under Public
Departments — Return Presented
July 28, 1332, 1341.

Civil Service, *see* that title.

Supply

Army Estimates, *see* that title.

Civil Service and Revenue Departments
Estimates.

Education—£5,421,862, *com. July 15,
257.*

Embassies and Missions Abroad, Con-
sular Establishments—£277,570,
com. July 15, 279.

Inland Revenue Department—
£1,316,770, *com. July 15, 341*

Irish Votes.

Chief Secretary's Offices in Dublin,
and London, and Inspectors
of Lunatic Asylums, Salaries
and Expenses—£10,108, *com.
July 23, 1022 ; July 24, 1161.*

Railways—£45,802, *com. July 28,
1092.*

Registrar-General's Office—
£12,377, *com. July 23, 1092.*

Valuation and Boundary Survey
—£10,436, *com. July 23, 1092.*

Scottish Education—£707,712, *com.
July 15, 319.*

Supplementary Estimates—Estimates,
1902-3, Presented *July 17, 509.*

Universities and Colleges, Great
Britain, and Intermediate Edu-
cation, Wales—£67,500, *com. July
15, 279.*

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Taxing Office—Documents of not sufficient
value to justify Preservation—Schedule
Presented, *July 25, 1255, 1263.*

Surrey Yeomanry

Progress in Recruiting.
O. Lord Stanley, July 17, 605.

Sussex Yeomanry

Progress in Recruiting.
*Os. Sir A. Hayter, Lord Stanley, July
17, 605.*

Sutherlandshire

Farr, Advertisement for Poor Law Medical
Officer—Local Government Board
Regulations.
Q. July 24, 1141.

Sutors

Fortification of, proposed.
Q. July 15, 238.

Swansea Corporation Bill

c. Report July 23, 1001.*

Switzerland

English Ladies—Arrest and Imprisonment
of Two Ladies, Compensation from
Swiss Government, proposed.
Q. July 23, 1009.

Montreux, British Vice-Consulship at—
Candidature of Mr. Ames.
Q. July 17, 511.

Taff Vale Railway Bill

c. Report July 17, 507.
con.* July 21, 760.
3R.* July 24, 1137.*

Talbot, Rt. Hon. J. G. [Oxford University]

Bedwellty Guardians neglecting to appoint
Workhouse Chaplain, *July 21, 765.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com.
July 21, 860.*

Taxation

Local Taxation, *see* that title.

Tea

Bengal and Assam Tea Areas—Drunk-
ness among Tea Garden Coolies, Sup-
pression of Liquor Shops, proposed.
Q. July 16, 368.

Tea Duty, Ireland

Falling Off in Amount of Tea Duty for
year ending March 31, 1902, Es-
timated Amount of 1903, etc.
Q. July 14, 107.

Teachers

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land and Wales) Bill.

Technical Education

see Secondary and Technical Education.

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Telegraph Service**Employees.**

Bath Telegraphists holding Dual Increment desiring to relinquish Increment and return to former Positions—Places filled up, Transference to another Town.

Q. July 16, 360.

Central Telegraph Office—Cable Room, Temporary Delegation of Senior Duties to Junior Officers—Increasing Number of Senior Appointments, proposed.

Q. July 14, 105.

Lombard Street Staff—Coronation Procession, Provision of Seats for Friends of Employees—Refusal of Inspector to forward Appeal to Higher Authorities.

Q. July 16, 360.

Ireland.

Kilrush, Non-delivery of Telegram owing to alleged insufficient Address—Inquiry proposed.

Q. July 28, 1361.

Mallow and Tipperary, Extending Trunk System to—Waiving demand for a Guarantee, proposed.

Q. July 14, 126.

Tory Island—Breakdown of Cable connecting Island with Donegal Coast.

Q. July 24, 1160.

Revenue and Expenditure from 1869-70 to 1901—Return Ordered *July 24, 1141*—Presented *July 25, 1262.*

Underground Telegraph Wires, Extension to the North—Increasing Allowance made in the Estimates, proposed.

Q. July 16, 369.

Tennant, Mr. H. J. [Berwickshire]

Wexford Saw Mills Fatality, Prosecution of Occupier for Failure to Fence Machinery—Dismissal of Summons, *July 15, 255.*

Tenterden, Lord

Sat first in Parliament after the death of his father, *July 22, 879.*

Tents

India—District Officers on Tour, Superseding large Tents by Swiss Cottage and Cashmere Tents, proposed.

Q. July 22, 895.

Thomas, Mr. Abel [Carmarthen, E.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 14, 190, 204.*

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, *con. July 22, 978.*

Thomas, Mr. D. A. [Merthyr Tydvil]

Coal Duty Rebate—Refusal of Customs to remit Duty on Nitrate Railways pre-Budget Contract, *July 17, 520.*

County and Municipal Boroughs and Urban Districts—Changes in Acreeage since 1888, Return proposed, *July 24, 1146.*

Thomas, Mr. D. A.—cont.

Municipal [Non-County] Boroughs, Population Statistics—Number having Population exceeding that of Urban District of Merthyr Tydvil, *July 17, 512.*

Thomas, Mr. Freeman [Hastings]

Volunteers—Issue of Ammunition dated 1897, *July 16, 363.*

Ticehurst Water Bill

l. Royal Assent, July 22, 878.

Tientsin

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"Times"

Buller, Sir Redvers, Appointment to the Aldershot Command—*Times* Attacks on the Government.

O. Sir E. Grey, July 17, 540.

"History of the South African War"—Attacks on Sir Redvers Buller's Conduct of Operations in Natal, etc., Leakage of Confidential Documents supposed.

Debates on the Estimates, July 17, 530, 545, 548, 549.

Tincoora

Labourers' Cottages—Refusal of D. Forde's Application.

Q. July 17, 514

Tipperary

Crime in—Two Englishmen only Case for Grand Jury.

O. Mr. Dillon, July 24, 1163.

Telephone Service, Extending Trunk System to Tipperary—Waiving Demand for a Guarantee, proposed.

Q. July 14, 126.

Tobacco Duty

Ireland—Falling off in Amount of Tea Duty for year ending March 31, 1902. Estimated Amount for 1903, etc.

Q. July 14, 107.

Tomkinson, Mr. J. [Cheshire, Crewe]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 21, 848*

Ireland, Government by England, Results of, etc., *July 23, 1106.*

Volunteers—Corporal dismissed for omitting Salute to Superior Officer. *July 17, 610.*

Yeomanry, Imperial, Changes in—Men better suited to the Requirements of the Force, Additional Inducements, etc., *July 17, 603, 605.*

Tomlinson, Sir W. E. M. [Preston]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *com. July 22, 917, 920.*

London Water Bill, *re-com. July 11, 24.*

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, *con. July 22, 984.*

Rifle Clubs—Organisation proposed, *July 17, 613.*

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Tory Island

Telegraphic Communication with Donegal Coast, Breakdown of.
Q. July 24, 1160.

Tower, Mr.

China—Mr. Tower's Report on British Consular Service, Publication of proposed.
Q. July 21, 766.

Traction Engines

Scotland—Amendment of Locomotives on Roads Acts.
Q. July 18, 668.

Trade, Board of

President—Rt. Hon. G. W. Balfour.
Parliamentary Secretary—Earl of Dudley.

Consular Work—Transfer of Control of Commercial Department from the Foreign Office, proposed.
Observations in Com. of Supply,
July 15, 283, 291, 311, 313.

Labour Department—Changes in Rates of Wages, Hours of Labour, etc.—Report and Statistical Tables, Presented July 25, 1254, 1263.

Trade Reports

Annual Series, Presented July 11, 3; July 14, 102; July 15, 218, 237; July 17, 467, 509; July 21, 726, 762; July 24, 1123, 1140.

Miscellaneous Series, Presented July 15, 218, 236.

Trade and Commerce

Commercial Agents Abroad—Visit to Centres of Industry in Great Britain with a view to promoting Commerce, Indifference among Commercial Classes.

Os. Sir A. Rollit, July 15, 281; Lord Cranborne, 299; Sir E. Gray, 302.

Foreign Competition.

Africa, South—Foreign Nation—absorbing bulk of Trade, alleged, Assisting British Manufacturers to obtain Share.

Q. July 24, 1151.

English Merchants refusing to use Weights and Measures and Prices, etc., of Foreign Countries.

O. Mr. Moon, July 15, 289.

Indian Railway Locomotives *see* India.

Imports and Exports, Remedy for Excess of Imports over Exports.
Q. July 21, 764.

Minister of Commerce—Organisation and Management of Commercial Matters, Placing in hands of one Department, proposed.

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Q. July 23, 1011.

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Q. July 22, 904.

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Q. July 22, 904.

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Q. July 21, 766.

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